

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
FILE NUMBER: 100-372586 SERIALS 30-
END OF FILE

1-72
(1-10-49)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR

FILE NO. **65-1936**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE MAY 3 1951	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE THEODORE VON KARMAN		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R
AGENCY ICE		REQ. REC'D 4/20/51
REP'T FORW. 1/5/55		BY AKT-gmb

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

[REDACTED] advises he heard unverified rumors that subject left Budapest after overthrow of Kun Government in 1919 due to general animosity towards Semitic persons and his supposed sympathy with Communism. Subject not known to have been active in Kun Government or to hold position therein. No Communist Party affiliations known. [REDACTED] met KARMAN only once about one year ago at which time he appeared to be "somewhat sympathetic to Communism". [REDACTED] denies furnishing information re subject to Informant [REDACTED] in Europe.

AGENCY **ICE**
REQ. REC'D **6-26-55**
REP'T FORW. **7-13-55**
BY **AKT-gmb**

*ice
OSI
VIA LIAISON
5-9-51
Wash.*

*1 cc
McIntire*

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

[REDACTED] was interviewed by the writer (and [REDACTED]) Office of Special Investigation, United States Air Force, at which time there was displayed to [REDACTED] two pictures of subject, one taken apparently when he was approximately twenty-five years of age and the other published in January by Time Magazine and apparently recently taken. [REDACTED] was not advised as to the name of the individual depicted in these photographs and stated that he could not recall ever having seen the person before nor was he acquainted with the subject of the photographs. When

*Reibro
Nicholas
Von
Karmann
coll. from
[REDACTED]*

- P -
AGENCY **PHOTOGRAPH**
REQ. REC'D **1-15-58**
REP'T FORW. **1-24-58**
BY **AKT-gmb**

*6-16-51
b7C
b7D*

DECLASSIFIED BY **SP5 JCL/000**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: CW Stein	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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CONFIDENTIAL

WFO 65-1936

it was explained to him that the photographs were those of subject he advised that it was his recollection that subject would resemble the more recent photograph but due to his very slight acquaintance with him he did not immediately recall him from the picture. [REDACTED] stated that he had known the brother of TUDOR KAHMAN (by which name he repeatedly referred to subject) in Budapest around 1922 at which time they both were [REDACTED] in that city. He also noted that he had met MUR KAHMAN, the father of subject, a well known teacher in Budapest. According to [REDACTED] he knew TUDOR by reputation as a teacher at the Jozef Nador University and one of the foremost authorities in hydrodynamics but that he never personally met him.

[REDACTED] recalled that subject left Hungary after the Kun Government was overthrown and that he subsequently went to Aachen, Germany, where he taught in the University and evidently continued his scientific work. Subsequently KAHMAN came to this country and has evidently been engaged in the scientific field in California. According to [REDACTED] he had never known subject having been referred to as VON KAHMAN, stating that in Hungary the name has simply been TUDOR KAHMAN. [REDACTED] could not recall, other than by attributing his statements to general rumor at the time, facts concerning subject's fleeing from Budapest and stated that it was his recollection that he had supposedly left the country due to the fact that after the Kun Regime there was a wave of anti-semitism throughout Hungary and that furthermore subject had apparently evidenced or expressed some sympathy toward Communism or the Kun Regime in particular. [REDACTED] however, stated that he did not know nor had he heard rumors to the effect that subject had been active in the Kun Government or that he had ever attained or served in any official or honorary capacity under that Government.

It was further related that [REDACTED] had no knowledge concerning any Communist activity or membership in the Communist Party by subject in Hungary, Germany, the United States, or elsewhere. [REDACTED] was unacquainted with facts concerning subject's entry into the United States and details concerning his activities and associations subsequent to his arrival here.

Pursuant to an invitation from [REDACTED] along with several other individuals of Hungarian descent, was about a year or a year and a half ago invited to [REDACTED] home in Washington [REDACTED] subject who was at that time visiting in the city. The

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WFO 65-1936

evening was of a social nature, the conversation being generally innocuous, although at one juncture it turned toward the subject of Communism and in particular the present Communist controlled government of Hungary. In reference thereto the subject stated that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This remark was recalled by [REDACTED] who stated that in context it was an implication that KARMAN was speaking favorably of the fact that the Hungarian people were presently living under a Communist Government and apparently voluntarily so doing. In answer to subject one of the other guests remarked that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and in reply thereto the subject merely shrugged and stated, [REDACTED] Due to the fact that most of the individuals present during the evening were in some field of scientific endeavor the conversation also concerned itself with general scientific talk. [REDACTED] noted that subject was accompanied that evening by a lady who he subsequently recalled to be probably his sister, JOSEPHINE.

Concerning [REDACTED] it is noted that Confidential Informant [REDACTED] who has previously furnished reliable information and is a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that among the individuals present at the [REDACTED] apartment were [REDACTED] Baltimore, and [REDACTED] Washington, both of whom were described by him as being anti-Communist. [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] had informed him that in the Spring of 1945, subject had been in Budapest and had also visited Moscow to attend the three hundredth jubilee of the Moscow Academy of Science. [REDACTED] did not know the facts concerning this trip of subject.

[REDACTED] informed that he had been interviewed by Informant [REDACTED] a government agency which conducts security investigations, in Europe in 1948 and that he had made available such information as he possessed concerning Communist activities and persons of Communist sympathies in

/b2 b7C b7D

WFO 65-1936

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Hungary at that time but that he did not give any information concerning subject nor was he questioned relative thereto. He further stated that had he been questioned concerning subject, he could have offered little information of value due to the fact that he was not personally acquainted with him and that his knowledge of him and his activities was simply derived from unverified rumors. This information concerning subject's reasons for leaving Hungary after the Kun Government's overthrow has been set forth above.

- P E N D I N G -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WFO 65-1936

LEAD PAGE

It is requested that all of the following leads be held in abeyance pending advice from the Bureau concerning the permissibility of the indicated interviews being made.

BALTIMORE DIVISION

AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Will interview [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] concerning his knowledge of subject and in particular any information concerning his political activities in Hungary in 1918 and 1919.

BOSTON DIVISION

AT WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Will interview [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for his information concerning subject and in particular the latter's political activities in Hungary during the Bela Kun Regime.

NEW YORK DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will interview [REDACTED] reported to be connected with the [REDACTED] concerning his knowledge of subject and the latter's activities in Hungary.

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will interview [REDACTED]
concerning any information in his possession concerning subject.

b7C

LEAD PAGE

For the information of Baltimore and Boston, a report from CIC dated April, 1948, reflected that TODOR KARMAN had joined the Hungarian Communist Party in 1918, while an Assistant Professor of Physics at Jozef Nador Technical University in Budapest. When the Communist seized power under Bela Kun in 1919, KARMAN was appointed Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs remaining as such until the Kun Government was overthrown in 1919, at which time he fled to Germany and settled in Aachen, transferring his Communist Party membership. He subsequently came to this country and during the war worked on research in aerodynamics for the United States Army Air Forces.

b7c [REDACTED] The above information is reportedly given to CIC by [REDACTED]
b7D [REDACTED] It is noted that subject is one of the foremost aerodynamists in the world and is known to have been closely associated in scientific research with Communist Party members.

WFO 65-1936

INFORMANT PAGE

[REDACTED] 1
[REDACTED] b7D
[REDACTED] b2
[REDACTED] J
[REDACTED] b2

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CIC, United States Army.

REFERENCES: Bureau Letter dated March 14, 1951
Bureau Teletype dated April 16, 1951

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

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☐ (b)(2)

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☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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SAC, KNOXVILLE

May 25, 1951
DEFERRED
INDEX

JULIUS ROSENBERG; REF-2.

b7c b7D

IMPORTANT [REDACTED] OF HED RECENTLY ADVISED THAT ON HOLIDAY WEEKEND
WILLIAM FEEL, ACCORDING TO ROSENBERG, REMOVED CERTAIN CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS FROM
PUPIN LABORATORY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, WHICH PAPERS SUBSEQUENTLY PHOTOGRAPHED
AT ROSENBERG APARTMENT. BY REASON PREVIOUS STATEMENT DATED CHRISTMAS TIME
IN FORTY EIGHT ROSENBERG CLAIMED TO HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR
ENERGY FOR AIRPLANES IDENTIFIED AS NEPA PROJECT, CHECK BEING MADE TO DETERMINE
WHETHER COPY "LEXINGTON REPORT" OR OTHER NEPA REPORTS FURNISHED THROUGH VON
KARMAN, PUPIN LABORATORY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. FEEL KNOWN TO HAVE SERVED AS
ASSISTANT TO VON KARMAN AND HAD ACCESS TO VON KARMAN'S PAPERS. REQUEST
IMMEDIATE CHECK AT NEPA, OAK RIDGE, TO DETERMINE WHETHER "LEXINGTON REPORT"
OR OTHER NEPA PAPERS FURNISHED VON KARMAN AND IF SO, DATE AND IDENTITY SUCH
REPORT. SUTEL.

82-1840CV
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

KFK:hs

cc: New York (By Mail)

DATE 7/22/82 BY 3042 PWT/RWS/lmw
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65-58236

cc: 65-59312 (Per1)
100-372586 (Von Karmann) ✓

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SS 1951 MAY 31

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

354-294
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DATE 5-30-97 BY SP5 JCH

MAY 19 1951

TELETYPE

WASH AND WASH FLD 32 LOS ANGELES1 FROM NEW YORK

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DIRECTOR AND SACS

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THEODORE VON KARMAN, WAS, IS-R. REBUTEL MAY SEVEN LAST. THOROUGH
SEARCH OF RECORDS OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, INCLUDING MASTERS
AND DOCTORS DEGREES THESES FROM EIGHTEEN NINETEEN TO PRESENT,
REVEAL NO THESIS ON BELA KUN COUP IN HUNGARY. ONLY ITEMS LOCATED RE
THIS SUBJECT WERE FOUR BOOKS INCLUDING A VOLUME OF BOUND PAMPHLETS
ENTITLED QUOTE WHAT IS COMMUNISM, END OF QUOTE, WRITTEN BY BELA KUN,
PREFACE BY KISHKA, PRINTED BERLIN, GOSUDARST, NINETEEN TWENTY, IN THE
RUSSIAN LANGUAGE, TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN. ANOTHER BOOK ENTITLED,
QUOTE THE MOST BURNING QUESTION DASH UNITY OF ACTION, END OF QUOTE,
WRITTEN BY BELA KUN, PUBLISHED BY WORKERS LIBRARY PUBLISHERS, NYC,
NINETEEN THIRTYFOUR. THIS BOOK MISSING FROM COLUMBIA LIBRARY SINCE
AUGUST FIFTY. ANOTHER BOOK, ENTITLED QUOTE OTTO BAUER-S WEG,
UNQUOTE, WRITTEN BY BELA KUN, IN GERMAN LANGUAGE, PUBLISHED BY MUNCHEN
PROMETHEUS - VERLAG, NINETEEN THIRTYFOUR. ANOTHER BOOK ENTITLED,
QUOTE REVOLUTIONARY ESSAY, UNQUOTE, REPRINTED IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE
FROM PRAVDA, LONDON, NINETEEN EIGHTEEN, BY BELA KUN. REVIEW OF LATTER
END OF PAGE ONE

RECORDED - 141
INDEXED - 141

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PAGE TWO

BOOK REVEALED NO REFERENCE TO SUBJECT. SEARCH OF GENERAL INDICES OF COLUMBIA LIBRARY RE NAME AND ALIASES OF SUBJECT REFLECTS NUMEROUS REFERENCES TO HIM AS AUTHOR OF VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC BOOKS AND PAPERS BUT NEGATIVE RE ANY ASSOCIATION WITH BELA KUN OR HIS REGIME. SUGGEST BUREAU RECONTACT OSI FOR EXACT TITLE AND OR AUTHOR OF THESIS OR THESES REFERRED TO IN BUTEL AS FURTHER SEARCH AT COLUMBIA NOT FEASIBLE WITHOUT SAME. FOR INFORMATION REBUTEL APRIL NINE, LAST, [REDACTED]

*10/1/41
10/1/41
10/1/41*

[REDACTED] NOT ACQUAINTED WITH SUBJECT.

[REDACTED] INTRODUCED SOCIALLY TO SUBJECT IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, ABOUT NINETEEN THIRTYSEVEN, BUT DOES NOT KNOW PRESENT ACTIVITIES OR WHEREABOUTS, AND DOES NOT RECALL HIS PRESENCE IN EUROPE SPECIFICALLY DURING BELA KUN REGIME, AND THEREAFTER. THIS INFORMANT WAS ACQUAINTED WITH GYORGY LUKACS, WHO WAS COMMISSAR OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS UNDER BELA KUN, AND WHO IS NOW FUNCTIONARY OF HUNGARIAN DASH COMMUNIST REGIME. [REDACTED] ADVISED HE HEARD OF SUBJECT AS ASSISTANT TO PROFESSOR RADO KOVESLIGHETY, A MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR AT THE JOZSEF NADOR TECHNICAL UNIVERISTY

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b7D*

END OF PAGE TWO

OF BUDAPEST, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW HIM PERSONALLY. INFORMANT SAID THAT SUBJECT AND SEVERAL OTHER ASSISTANTS OF ABOVE PROFESSOR JOINED THE BELA KUN REGIME IN HUNGARY, AND IN SO DOING, WERE SWAYED BY PROFESSOR EVESLICHETZ. SUBJECT LATER CAME TO US, AND WAS ASSOCIATED AT CALICE, ACCORDING TO INFORMANT. INFORMANT SUGGESTED FURTHER INFO MIGHT BE OBTAINED FROM [REDACTED] WASHINGTON, D.C. BUREAU REQUESTED TO ADVISE WFO IF THIS CONTACT DESIRED. [REDACTED] ADVISED HE CONTACTED SUBJECT IN A [REDACTED] NINETEEN FORTY FIVE SHORTLY AFTER SUBJECT RETURNED TO THE [REDACTED] FROM A TRIP TO HUNGARY, AT WHICH TIME SUBJECT DISCUSSED [REDACTED] AND CONDITIONS IN HUNGARY. INFORMANT SAID THAT FROM ABOVE [REDACTED], INFORMANT WAS IMPRESSED WITH SUBJECT-S FAVORABLE REACTION [REDACTED] COMMUNIST DOMINATION OF HUNGARY. FOR THIS REASON, INFORMANT [REDACTED] RECONTACTED SUBJECT. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] HE DID NOT KNOW VON KARMAN IN HUNGARY, ALTHOUGH HE WAS [REDACTED] WITH MANY BELA KUN FUNCTIONARIES. NYO SUGGESTS CONTACT [REDACTED] COULD BE HAD WITH CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] IN EUROPE, AND [REDACTED] PRESENTLY IN BOSTON. END [REDACTED]

62 b7c b7D

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PAGE FOUR

b7C b7D

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF ABOVE INFORMATION FROM OTHER INFORMANTS, AND SINCE [REDACTED] NOT READILY AVAILABLE, NO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THEM WILL BE MADE WITHOUT SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM BUREAU OR LA. RE LA REPORT APRIL TWENTYSEVEN, LAST, NYO INDICES REVEAL NO IDENTIFIABLE DATA RE PERSONS REPORTED AS CONTACTS OF SUBJECT. REPORT FOLLOWS.

SCHEIDT

44

HOLD

cc: Mr. [REDACTED]
b7C

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

May 12, 1951 DEFERRED

Transmit the following message to:

SAC, NEW YORK
WASHINGTON FIELD (BSM)

THEODORE VON KARMAN, IS - R. RE NY TEL MAY NINE LAST. OSI.
HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO FURNISH FURTHER INFORMATION RE THESES
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE EVENT THEY DESIRE FURTHER REVIEW
MADE. NY IS AUTHORIZED TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] AND WFO
TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] NY IS TO ADVISE WHEN [REDACTED]
RETURNS TO US. DECISION RE INTERVIEW OF HER WILL BE THEN MADE.
THE FACT THAT SUBJECT IS UNDER INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION SHOULD
NOT BE REVEALED DURING INTERVIEWS.

HOOVER

WAX:Mes

CC: WASHINGTON FIELD (BY SPECIAL MESSENGER)

CC: LOS ANGELES (BY MAIL)

RECORDED - 141

Note: Bufiles describe [REDACTED]

EX-85

He has been interviewed concerning
prominent Bureau subjects and was recommended by Informant
[REDACTED] He is presently being considered for a
permanent informant symbol.

Bufiles reflect [REDACTED] has, since 1948, been a source
of information on Hungarian matters in the WFO. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and has been described
by WFO as thoroughly anti-Communist and loyal to the U.S.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 12 1951

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SAC, LOS ANGELES

May 9, 1951

DIRECTOR, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Re Los Angeles report dated April 27, 1951.

There are attached for the information of the Los Angeles and Washington Field Offices copies of OSI investigative reports dated April 16, 1951. The reports were furnished the Bureau by memorandum dated April 27, 1951, from OSI and reflect the results of investigation by that Agency in Europe concerning subject.

In a recent memorandum to the Bureau, [redacted] Office of Special Investigations, Department of the Air Force, requested that the investigation of subject be expedited in view of the fact that subject, as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, Department of the Air Force, has continual access to information pertaining to highly sensitive aeronautical research. b7C

The investigation of subject is to be given preferred handling and the result of all investigation is to be submitted promptly to the Bureau for transmission to OSI.

Attachment

cc - Washington Field - Attachment
New York

RECEIVED DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI
MAY 9 3 24 PM '51

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

100-372586 - 33

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DATE 5-31-97 BY SP-10

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- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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100-372586-33 pg 2

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Assistant Attorney General
James M. McInerney

May 9, 1951

Director, FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Reference is made to our memorandum dated February 3, 1951, concerning captioned individual.

There is attached for your further information a copy of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated April 27, 1951, at Los Angeles, California.

b7C

Attachment

WAK:mes

354-844
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-30-97 BY [REDACTED]

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mohr
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

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EX-130
MAY 12 1951
MAY 10 1951
COMM. FILE

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66 MAY 19 1951

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CHB
mark

URGENT

THEODORE VON KARMAN, INTERNAL SECURITY DASH R. RELAREP APRIL TWENTY-SEVEN LAST. OSI ADVISES THAT THESES ON FILE QUOTE IN THE STACKS UNQUOTE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, CONCERNING BELIA KUN COUP IN HUNGARY, MAY REFLECT INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECT. BUREAU DESIRES THAT ABOVE THESES BE REVIEWED IMMEDIATELY AND ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECT BE FURNISHED BY TELETYPE. NEW YORK ALSO SUBMIT IMMEDIATELY REPORT COVERING LEADS SET OUT IN BULST APRIL NINE LAST AND REFERENCED REPORT.

100-372584

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-30-92 BY SP5 JCL/ogn

NOTE: Subject is Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, Department

OSI had also suggested that Hungarian and Russian newspapers at the New York Public Library may furnish further information concerning subject. In view of the fact that OSI has verified subject's participation under Bela Kun, and in view of the tremendous work involved in reviewing Russian and Hungarian newspapers for the year 1919, this lead is not being set out at the present time.

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Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION**

MAY 7 - 1951

~~TELETYPE~~
JUL 19 1951

RECORDED - 133

EX-130

**HANDLED BY
STOP**

100-372586

May 12, 1951

CONFIDENTIAL
VIA LIAISON

To: Director of Special Investigations (I.G.)
Department of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D.C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: THEODORE VON KARWAN, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Reference is made to your memorandum dated April 27, 1951, your reference 33-9676. Your memorandum noted that an OSI representative abroad had furnished information indicating that further details concerning subject's connection with the Bela Kun uprising in Hungary could be found in theses concerning the Bela Kun coup, at the Columbia University Library.

The New York Office of this Bureau has made a thorough search of the records of the Columbia University Library including the theses for Masters' and Doctors' degrees from the year 1901 to the present date. This search revealed no thesis which concerned the Bela Kun coup in Hungary.

In addition to the above, a book entitled "Revolutionary Essay" reprinted in the English language from Pravda, London, 1918, and written by Bela Kun was reviewed. This review failed to reveal any information concerning subject.

In the event you desire a further check of information contained in the Library of Columbia University, it is requested that you recontact your representative in Europe for the exact titles or the authors of the theses recalled by him.

WAK:LJB

RECORDED: 41 MAY 17 1951

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MAY 23 1951

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Alden.....
Mr. Belmont.....
Mr. Laughlin.....
Mr. Mohr.....
Tele. Room.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

In connection with the investigation of subject, several reliable informants who have knowledge of the activities of the German Communist Party, and who were present in Hungary during the Bela Kun Regime have been contacted. One of the informants has advised that he has heard of subject as having been a former assistant to Professor Rado Koveslighety of the Jozsef Nador Technical University of Budapest, Hungary. The informant, although he does not know subject personally, has heard that subject and several other assistants of the above professor joined the Bela Kun Regime in Hungary as a result of Professor Koveslighety's influence over them. The informant is unable to furnish any further information.

A second reliable informant advised that he contacted subject in 1945 after subject had returned to this country from a trip to Hungary. During this contact the informant discussed conditions in Hungary with subject and states that he was impressed with subject's favorable reaction to the Russian Communist domination of Hungary. As a result, the informant states that he has not since been in contact with subject.

A third informant has advised that he was personally acquainted with Gyorgy Lukacs who was Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs under Bela Kun, and who is now a functionary of the Hungarian Communist Regime, and although the informant was present in Hungary during the Bela Kun Regime, he knows of no connection of Von Karmann with Bela Kun.

The foregoing information is furnished you in confidence and it is requested that no dissemination be made outside the Office of Special Investigations. A detailed report covering the above matters will be made available to you in the very near future. You will also be furnished any additional pertinent information developed concerning subject.

my
Assistant Attorney General
James M. McInerney

May 11, 1951

Director, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reference is made to our memorandum dated
May 9, 1951, concerning captioned individual.

There is attached for your further
information a copy of the report of Special Agent
[REDACTED] dated May 3, 1951, at Washington,
D. C.

Attachment

WAK:mes
100-372586

MAY 11 7 05 PM '51
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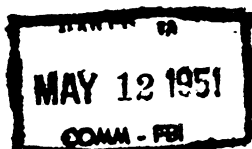
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ON 5-30-97

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100-372586

MAY 16 1951
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EX-24



60 MAY 23 1951

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moth.

SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD

May 15, 1951

DIRECTOR, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

OSI has advised this date that subject, after returning to the Pentagon from a European trip on May 14, 1951, contacted the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force and advised him that while in Europe, he had determined that he was being investigated by OSI. Subject also advised the Air Force that he had not belonged to the Communist Party in Germany but did not volunteer any information concerning his connection with the Bela Kun regime in Hungary.

OSI has requested that Bureau interview subject and that [redacted] OSI, Counter Intelligence Division, be permitted to attend interview. Bureau has authorized the interview and participation by [redacted]

EFO Agent [redacted] to whom investigation is assigned, is to immediately contact Bureau Liaison Agent [redacted] in order that arrangements for interview can be made.

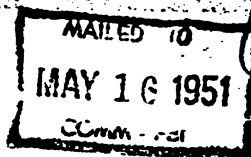
During interview, subject is to be specifically questioned regarding his former position as Commissar under Bela Kun and regarding any knowledge he may have of Communist Party membership or subversive activity on the part of [redacted]

Subject is also to be questioned concerning association with [redacted] to whom [redacted] was referred by subject. Questioning concerning [redacted] is to be conducted in a manner that will not enable subject to conclude that [redacted] is presently under investigation by the Bureau.

Information concerning all above associates set out in Los Angeles report dated April 27, 1951, concerning subject.

cc - New York
Los Angeles

WAK:mes



65 MAY 25 1951

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
FBI
S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
MAY 16 1951

HANDLED BY
STOP DESK

RECEIVED RECORDS ROOM
MAY 16 1951

RECORDED - 13400 - 372586-38

SAC, LOS ANGELES

May 16, 1951

DIRECTOR, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Rebulet May 9, 1951.

There is attached for your information a copy of OSI report dated April 26, 1951, OSI file number 33-49 which concerns captioned subject.

You will be furnished additional information received from OSI as a result of their continuing investigation.

100-372586

Attachment

WAK:mes

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-26-97 BY SP5CJA

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Harbo _____
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Nease _____
Gandy _____

SAC, LOS ANGELES

DIRECTOR, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

May 11, 1951

SECRET

Re WFO report May 3, 1951.

b7D
L
New York is authorized to interview [redacted] in accordance with the leads set out in referenced report. Prior to conducting the interview, New York is to review its files concerning [redacted] for the purpose of determining whether they are in the possession of any information not previously made available to the Bureau which makes such an interview inadvisable.

WFO is also authorized to interview [redacted] concerning subject, [redacted] after a similar review of their files.

b7C
b7D
The interview of [redacted] is not being authorized at this time because of the fact that [redacted]

[redacted] New York City. Bureau files also reflect that [redacted] has been reliably described as [redacted] and although he has been cooperative during several recent interviews, he has failed to fully volunteer information concerning [redacted]

Bureau files reflect that by memorandum dated [redacted] [redacted] b1

On the basis of that information, authority to interview [redacted] is not being granted at this time. b7C

RECORDED - 81

100-372586

cc - Washington Field
Baltimore
Boston
New York

MAY 16 1951
FBI
RECEIVED
MAY 11 1951

CLASSIFIED BY 5553/107
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
Classified per CIA Letter

WAK:mes

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES
 SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
 INTERNAL SECURITY - R

DATE: May 12, 1951

G.I.R. 3

W 11-
15-

Rebucfile 100-372586 in above captioned matter.

Re New York letter dated 3/22/51 captioned, [REDACTED]
 Internal Security - R reporting the results of a detailed interview
 with [REDACTED] in Paris, France in January, 1951.

It is observed therein that [REDACTED] was apparently offi-
 cially connected with the Communist regime of BELA KUN in Hungary
 in 1919. [REDACTED] indicated that he had resided in Hungary from
 at least 1905 to 1920 including attendance at law school at the
 University of Budapest from [REDACTED] military service in
 the Austrian-Hungarian army during 1914, 1915 and 1916, and en-
 employment after the war as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated also that after his duties with [REDACTED]
 terminated in 1919, the Democratic Government in Hungary
 was overthrown and the Communist regime came in. He advised that
 he worked in the [REDACTED] under the Communist regime,
 the latter of which was BELA KUN. He was thereafter mobilized for
 the army as a Captain in charge of an artillery group when the
 Romanian and Czechoslovakian armies invaded Hungary. He served
 in this position with the army until the end of the war in August,
 1919.

In view of the above information indicating participation
 by [REDACTED] in the Communist regime of BELA KUN in Hungary in 1919,
 it is suggested that the Bureau consider the advisability of hav-
 ing GIPARTI interviewed specifically concerning subject's activi-
 ties in Hungary under BELA KUN in 1919.

As to Mr. THEODORE VON KARMAN, it is recalled that G-2
 has furnished information concerning one TODAR KARMAN who was
 appointed Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs,
 in charge of higher education after the Communist uprising in
 Hungary during 1919 under the leadership of BELA KUN. This in-
 formation also revealed that TODAR KARMAN later fled from Hungary
 to Germany where he continued his membership in the Communist Party.

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105-863

Let to Legat.
 Pakel
 5-22-51
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 6-25-77 BY SP5

INDEXED - 35

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MAY 16 1951
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78 APR 1951

LA 105-863

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CSI has further advised on 4/5/51 that a representative of that agency has interviewed one [REDACTED] of Achen, Germany on 3/19/51 and who described himself as a former very close friend of the subject and his family since about 1919. He advised that he had been informed by subject's mother and also one ~~VON~~ ~~FAKLA~~ that subject had been Minister of Culture in Hungary under BELA KUN in 1919 while the latter was in power for a few months.

SAC, NEW YORK

June 1, 1951

DIRECTOR, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

354-994
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-97 BY SP5 JG

Re New York report May 21, 1951.

Pages 2 and 3 of referenced report reflect an interview with New York Confidential Informant [redacted] concerning subject. That part of the interview reported on page 3 states as follows:

"This meeting with the subject occurred in a local hotel, at which time the subject told the informant that Hungary was in good shape; that everything there was 'just fine', and generally impressed the informant by his Communistic and pro-Russian views concerning Hungary. The informant advised that because of his estimate of subject, resulting from the above conversation, he has never recontacted the subject."

While it is clear that the statement that subject generally impressed the informant by his Communistic and pro-Russian views concerning Hungary is an opinion of the informant, the report fails to reflect that the informant was questioned for further specific statements made by the subject which gave the informant the impression that subject had Communistic and pro-Russian views concerning Hungary.

The New York Office is to set out in a corrected page 3 any further specific information the informant may be able to furnish concerning his conversation with subject that supports the informant's opinion as reported above. In the event the informant, when interviewed, was requested to furnish additional information to support his opinion and was unable to do so, that fact should be stated in the report.

A corrected page 3 is to be furnished the Bureau and offices to whom referenced report was furnished at an early date.

cc - Boston

Los Angeles

Washington Field

Note: Pertinent information in ref. report was previously furnished OSI by memorandum based on a NY tel.

WAX:mes

JUN 1 1951

MAIL ROOM 25

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECRET

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LOS ANGELES

NY FILE NO. 65-67478 GN

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 5/21/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/2,5,7,8,9,10,12/51	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE THEODORE VON KARMAN, was., Theodor Karman, Theodor Von Szoelloestcietak			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: CI advised acquaintance with subject by reputation, and knew him to be assistant to a professor at Jozsef Nador Technical University, of Budapest, Hungary, who joined BELA KUN Regime and probably took assistant professors, including subject, with him. Another CI states that in 1945, in NYC, subject described Hungary with approval and impressed informant with Communistic and pro-Russian views. who was acquainted with Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs in Hungary under BELA KUN, does not associate subject with that regime. Search of Columbia University Library records, NYC, for information concerning BELA KUN's association with subject, negative. Info concerning [REDACTED] contact of subject, set out.			SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION.
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Edward Schmidt SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE			AGENCY/CC-5/26-5/13-50 REQ. REC'D 6-26-51 BUREAU FILED 6-13-51
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau (100-372586) 2 Boston 3 Los Angeles (105-863) 2 Washington Field (65-1936) 3 New York			RECORDED INDEXED EX-59

SEE REVERSE SIDE
1 cc. with corrected page sent via 6-25-51 wk.
6-1-51 WAC:mc
6-29-51
2 cc - CSC
8-28-54
CLASSIFIED BY SP5 JC/opp
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1-6
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MAY 23 1951
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PROPERTY OF FBI—This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not distributed outside of agency to which loaned.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HERE IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

NY 65-6747

DETAILS:

Confidential Informant [redacted] of known reliability, advised that he knew the subject in this country, although he never personally met him either in the United States or in Hungary. The informant advised that he knew all of the prominent persons in the BELA KUN Regime in Hungary, and that to the informant's knowledge the subject was not prominent, although the informant believed he was an Assistant Professor at the Jozsef Nador Technical University, in Budapest, under one Professor RADO KOVESLIGHETY, who was a Professor of Mathematics. b2 b7D

The informant stated that Professor KOVESLIGHETY joined the BELA KUN Regime and probably took his assistant professors, including the subject, with him. The informant did not know where the subject went after leaving Hungary, at the downfall of the BELA KUN Government, although he understood that he was later associated with the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California.

The informant continued that in 1945 or 1946 he discussed the subject with [redacted] Washington, D. C., and at that time the informant and [redacted] subject THEODORE VON KARMAN, should he try to approach them. This decision was reached after concluding that the subject [redacted] b7C b7D

[redacted] according to the informant, is a prominent Hungarian, who is well versed in the activities of Hungarian Nationals in this country, and is friendly with many former members of the Horthy Government in Hungary, which deposed BELA KUN.

Confidential Informant [redacted] of known reliability, advised that in 1945 after the subject returned to this country from a trip to Hungary, the informant contacted the subject on behalf of a local relief society b2 b7D

NY 65-6747

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for the purpose of learning means of sending needed supplies, such as sulfa drugs, into Hungary. This meeting with the subject occurred in a local hotel, at which time the subject told the informant that Hungary was in good shape; that everything there was "just fine", and generally impressed the informant by his Communistic and pro-Russian views concerning Hungary. The informant advised that because of his estimate of subject, resulting from the above conversation, he has never recontacted the subject. Informant advised he could recall no further specific statements by subject which gave him this impression. He explained his conversation with subject was very brief and occurred six years ago.

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Confidential Informant [redacted] of known reliability, identified a recent photograph of the subject and stated that he was introduced to the subject in Hollywood, California, during 1937, at which time the informant went to Hollywood on a social visit. The informant did not recall the identity of the person who introduced him to VON KARMAN, but was told that VON KARMAN was an outstanding engineer in what he now recalls as aeronautics, and that he had held highly responsible positions with the United States Government. This informant is unaware of VON KARMAN'S present whereabouts.

Aside from the above social meeting, the informant subsequently met VON KARMAN from time to time in various Hungarian Restaurants, in New York City. The informant stated that he never met VON KARMAN in Hungary, and knew nothing of his background there, nor could the informant recall his name in connection with events during the BELA KUN Regime. The informant indicated, however, that during this commune he was acquainted with GYORGY LUKACS, the Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs, who is also a functionary of the present Hungarian Communist Regime.

According to information received at the Bureau from the Office of Special Investigations, United States Air Force, there was reported to be on file in the stacks at Columbia University, New York City, theses concerning the BELA KUN Coup, in Hungary, which may reflect information concerning the subject.

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NY 65-6747

Special Agent (A) [REDACTED] through the cooperation of the Chief Librarian at Columbia University, made a thorough search of the records of that university library, which included Master and Doctors Degree theses, from 1891 to the present time. This search revealed no thesis on the BELA KUN Coup, in Hungary, nor any information which associated the subject with that regime. However, four items were located during this search, which are being listed for possible future use. b7c

1. Volume of bound pamphlets entitled, "What is Communism," written by BELA KUN, preface by KISHKA, printed in Berlin, Gosudarst, 1920, in the Russian language, translated from German.
2. A book entitled, "The Most Burning Question - Unity of Action," written by BELA KUN, published by Workers Library Publishers, New York City, 1934. This book has been missing from Columbia Library since August, 1950.
3. A book entitled, "Otto Bauer's Weg", written by BELA KUN in the German language, published by Munchen Prometheus - Verlag, 1934.
4. A book entitled, "Revolutionary Essay", reprinted in the English language from "Pravda", London, England, 1918, by BELA KUN.

A review of the last book listed, the only one of the above list which was written in the English language, revealed no reference to the subject.

A search of the general indices of the Columbia Library concerning the name and known aliases of the subject reflected numerous references to the subject as the author of various scientific books and papers, but did not reveal any association of the subject with BELA KUN or his regime.

XCT

NY 65-6747

Confidential Informants [REDACTED] both of known reliability and who are generally acquainted with Communist activities in Germany during the 1920s, advised that they are not acquainted with the subject.

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Confidential Informant [REDACTED] of known reliability, who is generally acquainted with German and Hungarian Communist activities during the 1920s, stated that he did not know THEODORE VON KARMAN, although he was acquainted with many BELA KUN functionaries.

1

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] of known reliability, advised that the subject had recently been in communication with one [REDACTED] New York 4, New York, and one [REDACTED] New York 21, New York.

7

No derogatory information was available in the files of the New York Office, which could be identified with these individuals. It was noted, however, that the current Manhattan Telephone Directory reflects that one [REDACTED]

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Confidential Informant [REDACTED] of known reliability, advised that the subject also was recently in contact with a [REDACTED] New York City, and with a [REDACTED] Columbia University, whose home is in Danbury, Connecticut. No derogatory information is available in the files of the New York Office which can be identified with [REDACTED]

Concerning [REDACTED] who was contacted at [REDACTED] Confidential Informant [REDACTED] of known reliability, [REDACTED]

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NY 65-6747

[REDACTED]

(S)

[REDACTED]

(S)

[REDACTED]

(S)

[REDACTED]

(S)

* 2/19/55
9/15/55
dated 9-8-96

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] was thereafter interviewed by Agents of the New York Office, [REDACTED]

b2 b7D

(S) * 2/19/55
9/15/55
dated 9-8-96

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NY 65-6747

* Classified by
CIA LTR 9-8-91

b1

[REDACTED]

(S)

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] further stated that during his various associations with both [REDACTED] [REDACTED] neither had indicated any Communist or pro-Russian sympathies to him.

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- PENDING -

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NY 65-6747

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of SA [REDACTED] dated 5/21/51 at New York, are identified as follows:

- [REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED] on May 8 and 9, 1951.
- [REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED] on May 9, 1951.
- [REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED] on May 9, 1951.
- [REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED] on May 11 and 12, 1951.
- [REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED] on May 12, 1951.
- [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

He requested that his identity be kept confidential.

Mail cover placed on the subject's residence at 1501 South Marengo Street, Pasadena, California, as set forth in the report of SA [REDACTED] 4/27/51, at Los Angeles.

Confidential Source [REDACTED] as set forth in the report of SA [REDACTED] 4/27/51, at Los Angeles.

Confidential Source [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

b2 b7C b7D

~~SECRET~~

NY 65-6747

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

b1
b2
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(S) [REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED], on 5/15/51.

[REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED] contacted by [REDACTED] during the investigation of the case entitled, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was.; ATOMIC ENERGY ACT", NY file 117-128.

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Classified per
CIA Lett
9-8-98
(S)

~~SECRET~~

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NY 65-6747

LEADS

TO ALL OFFICES:

The Bureau has instructed that investigation in this case is to be given preferred handling and results to be submitted promptly for transmission to OSI. Further that the fact subject is under intensive investigation should not be revealed to persons interviewed.

BOSTON OFFICE

At Cambridge, Massachusetts

Will interview [REDACTED] Cambridge, Massachusetts, who is reported to be [REDACTED]

For the information of the Boston Office, by teletype dated May 12, 1951, the Bureau authorized this contact with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has been contacted on several occasions on a confidential basis by SA [REDACTED] and former SA [REDACTED] of the New York Office, and he has furnished detailed information concerning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a close friend of [REDACTED] a confidential informant of this office.

(Lead previously set forth in New York teletype, May 12, 1951, instant case.)

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~~SECRET~~

NY 65-6747

LEADS (CONT'D)

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

At Washington, D. C.

Will interview [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Washington, D. C., in accordance
with Bureau instructions received in Bureau teletype
of May 12, 1951.

b7C
b7D

NEW YORK OFFICE

At New York, New York

Will interview [REDACTED] in accordance
with Bureau authority set forth in Bureau letter dated
May 11, 1951.

b7D

Will advise the Bureau of the return of
confidential informant [REDACTED] from Europe, at which
time the Bureau will give consideration to authorizing an
interview with her concerning the subject's activities.

b7C
b7D

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Los Angeles, 4/11/51.
Report of SA [REDACTED] 4/27/51, at 25
Los Angeles.
Report of SA [REDACTED] 5/3/51, at 30
At Washington, D. C.
Bureau teletype to New York, 5/7/51.
New York teletype to the Bureau, 5/9/51.
New York teletype to the Bureau, 5/12/51.
Bureau teletype to New York, 5/12/51.
Bureau letter to Los Angeles, 5/11/51.

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X

~~SECRET~~ AIR COURIER

RECORDED

35

Date: May 22, 1951

DECLASSIFIED BY

34994
SAS JC/29m

To: Legal Attache
Paris, France

679-97

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Rebulet May 9, 1951.

There are attached for your information a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 27, 1951, and a recent photograph of subject which appeared in the January, 1951, issue of "Time" magazine. b7C

It will be noted that pages 8 and 16 of the attached report reflect that subject was Minister of Culture during the Bela Kun regime of 1919 in Hungary. It will also be noted on page 16 that subject is alleged to have transferred his Communist Party membership to the German Communist Party after fleeing Hungary during the same year.

A review of information recently received at the Bureau reflecting the results of an interview with [redacted] reveals that [redacted] was apparently officially connected with the Communist regime of Bela Kun in Hungary in 1919, and had worked in [redacted] under that Communist regime. b7D

It is requested that you interview [redacted] at an early date for any information in his possession concerning subject's activity under the Bela Kun regime and concerning any knowledge that he may have of subversive activity on the part of subject. [redacted]

Attachments

WAK:mes

100-372586

cc - Foreign Service Desk

MAY 24 1951

COMM. FBI

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT *AB*

FROM : V. P. KEAY

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

DATE: May 15, 1951

354894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-92 BY SP5DC/mjm

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
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Gandy

Theodore Von Karman is presently Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Air Force and an investigation has been conducted by the Bureau, assisted by the Air Force, which has determined that he was Minister of Culture in Hungary during the Communist Bela Kun regime some 32 years ago. The Bureau is presently conducting an internal security case concerning Von Karman and this investigation has, to date, failed to develop any current activities which would indicate Von Karman is engaging in espionage. *b7C*

Inquiries in this case were made in Europe by OSI. Von Karman, on May 14, 1951, returned to his office in the Pentagon Building, contacted the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and advised him that while in Europe he had determined that he was being investigated by the Air Force. Von Karman advised the Vice Chief of Staff that he had not belonged to the Communist Party in Germany, where he went after leaving Hungary, but apparently did not volunteer any information concerning his connection with the Bela Kun regime in Hungary.

b7C [redacted] of OSI, has suggested that inasmuch as Von Karman is now aware of the investigation being made concerning him that it would in all probability be advisable, if the Bureau has no objections, to interrogate Von Karman at this time in connection with his past known Communist connections. In this connection, [redacted] noted that this investigation is, of course, within the Bureau's jurisdiction but that this case is probably the most important case OSI has at this time and that he [redacted] would appreciate it if the Bureau would allow [redacted] OSI Counterintelligence Division, to sit in with the Bureau Agent on the interrogation of Von Karman. It was noted by [redacted] that [redacted] is familiar with the Von Karman case and its ramifications in Europe. He is also familiar with Von Karman's work and relationship with the Air Force.

RECOMMENDATION:

RECORDED - 49
INDEXED - 49

MAY 25

It is recommended that Special Agent [redacted] of the Washington Field Office, be designated to interrogate Von Karman

ESS:jmr *jmr*

HANDLED BY
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65 JUN 2 1951

inasmuch as [REDACTED] has previously handled this investigation in the Washington area, and it is further recommended that [REDACTED] of OSI Headquarters, be allowed to sit in on the interrogation as suggested by [REDACTED]. Such interrogation would not interfere with the present investigation of Von Karman inasmuch as Von Karman is presently aware that such investigation is being conducted. It is felt that to allow [REDACTED] to sit in on this interrogation will contribute further to the close liaison between the Bureau and OSI, and will result in the Air Force being completely satisfied with the results of this investigation. It will allow the Air Force to cover any points which may be of interest to the Air Force which would not necessarily be apparent to the Bureau representatives.

ADDENDUM: May 15, 1951 WAK:mes

As you are aware, subject is considered the world's leading aerodynamicist. He has been associated with the Air Force in an advisory capacity since 1939. It is noted that in 1945, when applying for a re-entry permit, his sister, Josephine, gave as references [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition to information hereinbefore set out, the investigation of subject is based on the fact that subject, in the early 1940's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] working under him William Perl, a known Soviet agent, [REDACTED]

The Espionage Section agrees that an interview of subject is appropriate at this time as he is aware of the pending investigation and therefore little likelihood exists that he will continue subversive activity if ever so engaged. In addition, no allegation has been received that subject is engaged in subversive activity and as subject is Chairman of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, an interview may clarify his activities enabling the Air Force to make a determination as to his loyalty.

It is noted that subject has been interviewed on numerous occasions by the Bureau, most recently concerning William Perl. At that time subject advised he was completely unaware of any subversive activity on the part of Perl.

In view of the importance of this investigation to OSI, the close relationship which exists between the Bureau and that organization, and the fact that it does not appear that the presence of [REDACTED] OSI, a former Bureau Agent, will interfere with our interview, it is recommended that the joint interview be authorized.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That WFO be advised of this new development in the investigation of subject, and that WFO be instructed to interview subject and be informed that authorization for [REDACTED] OSI to be present during the interview has been granted.

2. That WFO be instructed to specifically interview subject concerning the allegation that he was Minister of Culture under Bela Kun in Hungary in 1919 and that subject be also interviewed concerning his knowledge of Communist Party membership or subversive activity [REDACTED]

3. That subject be also interviewed concerning his association with [REDACTED] Because of the fact that [REDACTED] is presently under investigation, WFO should be instructed not to reveal the Bureau's intense interest in [REDACTED]

If you agree, there is attached an appropriate ^{Memo.} teletype to WFO.

Attachment

b7c OK. ✓ JH
H. 3 -

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES FROM WASH FIELD 17 6:50P.

DIRECTOR AND SACS DEFERRED

THEODORE VON KARMAN, WAS, IS DASH R. REBULET MAY FIFTEENTH, LAST. [REDACTED] OSI, ADVISES SUBJECT RETURNED LA MAY FIFTEENTH, AND NOT REVISITING D.C. UNTIL FALL THIS YEAR.

[REDACTED] REQUESTS [REDACTED] OSI, LA, BE PERMITTED PARTICIPATE IN INTERVIEW OF SUBJECT BY BUREAU AGENTS IN LA.

[REDACTED] FORWARDING COPIES OF OSI FILE RE SUBJECT TO [REDACTED] FOR THIS PURPOSE. LA AWAIT BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE INTERVIEWING SUBJECT.

STEIN

RLS:MC'B

100-22923

CO
CUR
HT

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-92 BY SP5 JC/ajm

RECORDED - 49

HANDLED BY
STG D 114

100-372586-44

MAY 25 1951
8

5-18-51
del to C.A. WFO
cc. NY
max: mess.

MAY 29 1951

[REDACTED]
b7c

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

May 18, 1951

URGENT

Transmit the following message to: SAC, LOS ANGELES
WASHINGTON FIELD (BSM)

THEODORE VON KARMAN, WAS., INTERNAL SECURITY - R. REBULET TO
WFO MAY FIFTEEN LAST WITH COPY TO LA, AND WFO TEL MAY SEVENTEEN
LAST. LA IS TO INTERVIEW SUBJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCED
BULET. THE PRESENCE OF [REDACTED] OSI, DURING INTERVIEW
IS AUTHORIZED UNLESS LA RELATIONSHIP WITH [REDACTED] IS NOT
CORDIAL AND LA THEREBY OBJECTS. IN SUCH CASE, FULL FACTS
ARE TO BE FURNISHED BUREAU. INTERVIEW IS TO BE CONDUCTED
BY EXPERIENCED AGENT. SUTEL RESULTS.

HOOVER

CC: WASHINGTON FIELD (BY SPECIAL MESSENGER)

CC: NEW YORK (BY MAIL)

100-372586

WAK:mes

54894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-97 BY 2500/...

Note: Authority for interview recommended by memo from
Keay to Belmont, May 17, 1951, and approved by Director.
Same memo also authorized [REDACTED] OSI
Counterintelligence Division, Washington, to attend
interview at request of [REDACTED] As noted in
referenced tel, subject departed from Washington on same
date interview requested and authorized. It is noted
that OSI, at that time, advised Liaison Agent [REDACTED]
that subject would be in Washington for interview on
May 17, 1951, although subject comes and goes as he pleases.
As a joint interview of subject has already been authorized,
it does not appear that Bureau should object to the
replacement of [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] DA relationship
with [REDACTED] as cordial.

COPIES DESTROYED
APR 5 1963
Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

HANDLED BY
STORDESK

INITIALED
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

RECORDED - 49 MAY 25 1951

M

Per

100-372586

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 16 1951

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	
8-25 PM	

WASHINGTON 7 AND NEW YORK 4 FROM BOSTON 5-16
DIRECTOR AND SAC DEFERRED

THEODORE VON KARMEN, WAS, IS DASH R. RENYTEL MAY TWELVE LAST.

[REDACTED] ON INTERVIEW THIS DATE STATED SUBJECT COMPLETELY UNKNOWN TO HIM AND THAT SO FAR AS HE IS AWARE HE HAS NEVER HEARD MENTION OF SUBJECT-S NAME. [REDACTED] WAS UNACQUAINTED WITH

INDIVIDUALS ACTIVE IN CP AT AACHEN, GERMANY, WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE [REDACTED]

REPORT FOLLOWS.

HOLD

35787
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-92 BY 4502/clm

THORNTON RECORDED-19

EX-130

MAY 25 1951

37

50 JUN 1 1951

HANDLED BY
STOP DESK

b7C

b7C

b7D

SAC, LOS ANGELES

MAY 15, 1951

DIRECTOR, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Re Los Angeles report dated April 27, 1951,
which reflects that subject has been in contact with
[REDACTED] New York, New York, [REDACTED]

The attention of Los Angeles and New York is
called to the New York report dated July 17, 1950,
entitled [REDACTED]
was., AKA, a copy of which is in the possession of
the Los Angeles Office (Los Angeles file 117-83; New
York file 117-128).

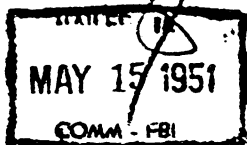
New York is to determine if [REDACTED]
mentioned in referenced report, is identical with
Bureau subject [REDACTED]

100-372586

cc - New York

WAK:mes

157 894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-92 BY SP5 JCL/m



RECORDED-49

EX-130

MAY 12 1 51 PM '51

MAY 17 1951
80

RECEIVED
7/5/51

264
JUN 1 1951

37-2-6-47
Cohn
mead

MR. BELMONT

May 26, 1951

MR. HENRICH

JULIUS ROSENBERG, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

URGENT

[REDACTED]

Referred

MEMPHIS

New York teletype 5/23/51 advised that, according to [REDACTED] Rosenberg made statement that on holiday weekend, which he said was July 4th of last year, Earl removed secret files from Laboratory at Columbia University, took them to Rosenberg's apartment where Rosenberg, Earl, a man from out of town who believed to be [REDACTED] and a fourth man spent 17 hours with two cameras photographing the material so that Earl could return it.

Cleveland teletype 5/24/51 pointed out that on basis of check of Earl's and [REDACTED] leave records there appeared little likelihood of this being done on July 4th in 1949 or 1950. However, this teletype suggested that it could have been done on July 4, 1949, as both Earl and [REDACTED] had leave over this period.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

65-5826

cc: 65-10312 (Earl)

100-37286 (Julius Rosenberg)

100-37286
NOT RECORDED

45 JUN 1 1951

WFE:he

Attachment (Tel to Knoxville)

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

HAND BY
7/1/51

354,894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-97 BY SP5R/ajg

ORIGINAL FILED IN

7
Referred

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the attached teletype be sent to Knoxville requesting an immediate check at NERA in Oak Ridge to determine whether they furnished to Von Neuman either the "Lexington Report" or any confidential reports on the NERA Project.

It is further recommended that through Liaison a similar check be made at the U. S. Air Force to determine whether they may have made available any such reports to Von Neuman.

MAY 12 1951

TELETYPE

CONF WASHINGTON 30 AND BOSTON 3 FROM NEW YORK

DIRECTOR AND SAC DEFERRED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-16-97 BY SP5K/ajm

12

645 P

THEODORE VON KARMAN, WAS, THEODOR KARMAN, THEODOR VON SZOELLOESTICITAK, ISR. REBUTEL MAY TWELVE INST. INFO OBTAINED MAY TWELVE THAT CI

IS STILL IN EUROPE AND DATE OF RETURN INDEFINITE.

NYO WILL ADVISE BUREAU WHEN SPECIFIC INFO RE HER RETURN OBTAINED.

ADVISED MAY TWELVE THAT

IN VIEW THEREOF BOSTON REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW

FOR ALL INFO RE VON KARMAN. FOR INFO BOSTON,

HAS BEEN CONTACTED ON

CONFIDENTIAL BASIS SEVERAL TIMES BY SA AND FORMER

SA OF NYO AND HAS FURNISHED NYO DETAILED INFO RE

IS CLOSE FRIEND OF

A CI OF THIS OFFICE. RE VON KARMAN, BOSTON REFER REPT SA

MAY THREE INST, WASH, DC, PAGE SIX, FOR BACKGROUND INFO.

NOTED FURTHER SUBJECT IS SEVENTYSIX YEAR OLD WORLD RENOWNED

AERODYNAMIST WHO CAME TO THIS COUNTRY IN NINETEEN THIRTY AND FROM

NINETEEN THIRTY TO FORTYTWO EMPLOYED DIRECTOR OF GUGGENHEIM AERO-

NAUTICAL LAB, CALTECH, PASADENA, CALIF. LATER ACTED AS CONSULTANT

FOR NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS AND CURRENTLY IS

56 JUN

8 1951

END PAGE ONE

HANDLED BY
SP5K/ajm

b7C

PAGE TWO

CHAIRMAN OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD, DEPT OF AIR FORCE, PENTAGON
BLDG, WASH, DC. AS SUCH HE HAS CONTINUAL ACCESS TO INFO PERTAINING
TO HIGHLY SENSITIVE AERO RESEARCH. BUREAU HAS INSTRUCTED INVESTIGA-
TION THIS CASE TO BE GIVEN PREFERRED HANDLING AND RESULTS TO BE SUB-
MITTED PROMPTLY TO BUREAU FOR TRANSMISSION TO OSI. FURTHER THAT THE
FACT THAT SUBJECT IS UNDER INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION SHOULD NOT BE
REVEALED DURING INTERVIEW. FOR INFO BUREAU, NYO HOLDING INTERVIEW
OF [REDACTED] IN ABEYANCE UNTIL BUREAU AUTHORITY RECD. LA ORIGIN.

SUTEL AND SUREP.

67D
SCHEIDT

Sent.

END, AAD PLS

WA \$ NY R 30 WA JD

BS NY R 3 BS NER

MAY 24 1951

TELETYPE

354294

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-16-97 BY SP5 JCL/mj

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

AB
JX

WASH AND WFO 1 FROM LOS ANGELES

23 /24/

9-45 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD

DEFERRED

THEODORE VON KARMAN, IS-R, BUFILE ONE HUNDRED DASH THREE SEVEN TWO FIVE EIGHT SIX. REBUTEL MAY EIGHTEEN LAST. SUBJECT INTERVIEWED MAY TWENTY-THIRD INSTANT BY SA [REDACTED] AT LA OFFICE IN THE PRESENCE OF [REDACTED] b7C

[REDACTED] OSI, AT WHICH TIME HE ADMITS SUBSTANTIALLY AS FOLLOWS

CONCERNING HIS AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS BELA KUN REGIME IN HUNGARY IN NINETEEN NINETEEN. SUBJECT IN NINETEEN TWELVE WAS APPOINTED PROFESSOR OF AERONAUTICS AT AACHEN, GERMANY. IN NINETEEN FOURTEEN, HOLDING A RESERVE COMMISSION, HE WAS CALLED BACK INTO THE AUSTRO DASH HUNGARIAN ARMY AND WAS ENGAGED IN AIR FORCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNTIL DESINTERGRATION OF THE ARMY IN LATE NINETEEN EIGHTEEN. ABOUT DEC. NINETEEN EIGHTEEN, BEING STILL ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM UNIVERSITY OF AACHEN, HE BECAME PART TIME ADVISOR TO EUGENE GONCI, ASST. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION UNDER COUNT MICHAEL KAROLYI, PRES. OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY. GONCI-S SUPERIOR AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION WAS SIEGMEND KUNFI. SUBJECT ALSO THEN GAVE A COURSE OF LECTURES AT THE JOZSEF NADOR TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY AT BUDAPEST. UPON THE SURRENDER OF THE GOVT. BY KAROLYI TO COMMUNIST BELA KUN IN MARCH NINETEEN NINETEEN, GONCI TELEPHONED SUBJECT TO STAY ON IN HIS POSITION TO WHICH SUBJECT REPLIED THAT HE WOULD TRY AND DID REMAIN. KUNFI AND GONCI WERE BOTH TEMPORARILY CARRIED OVER BY THE BELA KUN REGIME, BUT REPLACED AFTER ABOUT TWO MONTHS BY GEORGE LUKACS, WHO WAS A COMMUNIST AND WHOSE TITLE

RECORDED - 127

EX - 120

MAY 31 1951

579
JUN 9 1951

END COPIES

HANDLED BY

PAGE TWO

WAS PEOPLES COMMISSARIATE FOR EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS. SUBJECT CONTINUED HIS DUTIES AS QUOTE ADVISOR UNQUOTE UNDER THE BELA KUN REGIME TO BOTH KUNFI, GONCI, AND THEIR SUCCESSOR LUKACS UNTIL THE COLLAPSE OF THE BELA KUN REGIME AT THE END OF JULY, NINETEEN NINETEEN. SUBJECT WITH THE TITLE OF GROUP LEADER HAD AN OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY BLDG. OF BUDAPEST AND HIS DUTIES CONSISTED OF PLANNING FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, CHOOSING PROFESSORS AND PREPARING COURSES OF STUDY FOR BOTH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. AFTER ABOUT ONE MONTH IN THE BELA KUN REGIME, HIS DUTIES INCREASED SO THAT HE WAS THEREAFTER SO ENGAGED FULL TIME ALTHOUGH ALSO DOING SOME LECTURING AT THE SAME TIME. WHILE SO ENGAGED SUBJECT BELIEVES THAT HE RECEIVED COMPENSATION FROM THE BELA KUN REGIME AND ALSO WAS COMPENSATED AS AN ARMY OFFICER AND FROM HIS LECTURING. UPON THE COLLAPSE OF THE BELA KUN REGIME, SUBJECT REMAINED IN BUDAPEST ABOUT A WEEK AND THROUGH FRIENDS IN THE AIR FORCE WAS TRANSPORTED TO VIENNA AND THENCE TO AACHEN, LEAVING HIS MOTHER AND SISTER BEHIND. HIS PURPOSE IN HASTILY LEAVING WAS TO AVOID NECESSARY EXPLANATIONS. SUBJECT ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN HIS FORMER AFFILIATION WITH THE BELA KUN REGIME AS PROMPTED BY, ONE DASH INFLUENCE OF FRIENDS AT THE UNIV. OF BUDAPEST WHO PREVALED UPON HIM TO PARTICIPATE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE HUNGARIAN SYSTEM OF EDUCATION. TWO DASH HIS OWN DESIRE TO PREVENT

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

THE COMMUNIST INFLUENCE FROM DESTROYING THE COUNTRY-S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. THREE DASH HIS BELIEF THAT THE COMMUNIST CONTROL WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY THING. FOUR DASH HIS ADMITTED DESIRE TO PRESERVE HIS OWN LIFE, THAT OF HIS FAMILY, PRESERVATION OF FAMILY PROPERTY AND FATHERS LIBRARY. SUBJECT DENIES ANY PAST OR PRESENT INTEREST IN COMMUNISM, DENIES THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CP UNDER THE BELA KUN REGIME PRIOR OR SINCE, AND WAS NEVER ASKED OR REQUIRED BY THE BELA KUN GOVT. TO BE A MEMBER. HE HAD NO PERSONAL DEALINGS WITH BELA KUN AND HAD NEVER SEEN HIM. SUBJECT STATED THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER HIMSELF AS HAVING BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE BELA KUN REGIME, BUT CONSIDERED HIMSELF RATHER AS AN OUTSIDE ADVISOR ALTHOUGH HE HAD AN OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY BLDG. HE NEVER RECEIVED ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO PUT COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA INTO THE SCHOOLS AND ASSOCIATED WITH REGULAR CIVIL SERVICE PEOPLE, VERY FEW OF WHOM WERE COMMUNIST EXCEPT AT THE VERY TOP. SUBJECT REMARKED THAT HE ONCE TOLD THE BELA KUN AUTHORITIES THAT HE WAS IN AN INDEPENDENT POSITION, WAS AGAINST THEIR THEORIES AND THAT SUBJECT WAS CALLED QUOTE MR. PROFESSOR UNQUOTE AND NEVER QUOTE COMRADE UNQUOTE. SUBJECT ADDED THAT IF ONE IS UNDER THE COMMUNIST REGIME FOR FOUR MONTHS AS HE WAS, QUOTE YOU ARE IMMUNIZED FOR LIFE UNQUOTE. SUBJECT STATED THAT HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE COMMUNIST BELA KUN GOVT. IN NINETEEN NINETEEN HAS NEVER BEEN RAISED EXCEPT ON ONE OCCASION IN ABOUT NINETEEN TWENTY DASH TWENTYONE

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

WHEN HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE GERMAN EQUIVALENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY FOR AERONAUTICS AT BERLIN. AT THAT TIME HE WAS QUESTIONED BY ABOVE SOCIETY, EXPLAINED CIRCUMSTANCES, AND ALSO EXHIBITED TO THEM A LETTER FURNISHED BY ALEXANDER IMRI, MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN THE GOVERNMENT SUCCEEDING THE BELA KUN REGIME WHEREIN SUBJECT WAS COMMENDED FOR PROTECTING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF HUNGARY BY HIS EFFORTS. SUBJECT ALSO ADVISED THAT UPON HIS RECENT RETURN TO THE PENTAGON FROM EUROPE WHERE HE LEARNED OF A CURRENT INVESTIGATION RE HIM, HE PERSONALLY CONTACTED [REDACTED] VICE CHIEF, U.S. AIR FORCE, WASH. D.C. AND INFORMED HIM OF HIS ABOVE ASSOCIATION WITH BELA KUN GOVT. SUBJECT CLAIMS HE HAS NEVER BEEN APPROACHED BY UNAUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS FOR SECRET INFO. ON BEHALF OF A FOREIGN POWER. ALSO CLAIMS NO FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF CP MEMBERSHIP OR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES [REDACTED]

b7C

b7C

[REDACTED] IT IS OBSERVED THAT SUBJECT WAS VERY COOPERATIVE BUT EXPRESSED A DESIRE THAT ANY EMBARRASSMENT TO HIM OR THE U.S. AIRFORCE BY NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY BY THIS DISCLOSURE BE AVOIDED. FOR INFO. OF WFO RECORDS OF LA PUBLIC LIBRARY INDICATE THE COMMUNIST BELA KUN REGIME WAS IN POWER FROM THREE TWENTYTWO NINETEEN TO SEVEN THIRTYONE NINETEEN, WAS GRANTED SAFE CONDUCT BY ALLIES TO GERMANY, REACHED PETROGRAD, RUSSIA ON EIGHT FOURTEEN NINETEEN WHERE A RECEPTION WAS GIVEN IN HIS HONOR ON EIGHT NINETEEN NINETEEN BY SOVIET OFFICIALS. REPORT FOLLOWS.

HOOD

HOLD

CC. [REDACTED]

b7C

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bufile 100-372586)

DATE: June 1, 1951

G.I.R.-1

Rebulet dated May 23, 1951.

In view of subject's detailed explanation of his connection with the Communist Bela Kun Regime in 1919, as furnished by him upon interview on May 23, 1951, results of which were reported in Los Angeles teletype of the same date, a spot surveillance of the subject is not considered advisable, and is not contemplated by this office at this time.

JPA:mkm
105-863

RECORDED - 119

JUN 7 1951
10

50 JUN 25 1951

55-874
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-97 BY SP-3 Jcy

FIVE

b7c

SAC, NEW YORK

June 26, 1951

DIRECTOR, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Reurlet June 7, 1951.

You are authorized to interview [REDACTED] for any information in her possession concerning possible membership or activity in the Communist Party on the part of subject.

b7C
b7D

The interview is to be conducted in a manner that will not embarrass the Bureau.

RECORDED - 17

100-372586 51

cc - Los Angeles

WAK:mes

Subject is presently Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Department of the Air Force. He is being investigated at the request of the Air Force on the basis of an allegation that he was Commissar of Education during the short-lived Bela Kun uprising in Hungary during 1918 and 1919. Subject has been interviewed and he has admitted occupying an official position in the Bela Kun Government, but has denied Communist Party membership. The original allegation in this matter also alleges that subject, after leaving Hungary in 1919 was a member of the German Communist Party. It will be noted that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and has been frequently interviewed by New York during which interviews she has been cooperative.

[REDACTED] it is logical that she be interviewed concerning subject.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Alger _____

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-92 BY SP5 XPH

COMM - FBI
JUN 27 1951

COMM - FBI

JUN 27 1951

11-2 DEB 1-06 102110
RE B I
11-2 DEB 1-06 102110

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was;
IS - R
(Bufile 100-372586)

DATE: June 7, 1951

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-16-92 BY SP5 JCP/vr

Rebulet 6/1/51.

Attached hereto are five copies of a Corrected page 3 to be substituted for page 3 of N.Y. report dated 5/21/51. Appropriate copies of this page are enclosed for those offices reviewing copies of this letter.

For the information of the Bureau and Los Angeles, [REDACTED] has advised that he does not know THEODORE VON KARMAN under his true name or known aliases, nor could he identify a photo of subject. He stated that he has a faint recollection of a Professor KARMAN in Budapest who was an old man thirty years ago and if this individual was in any way connected with subject, he must have been subject's father. However, he could give no further information concerning this Professor KARMAN, or whether he in fact had a son or other relative who could have been identified with subject. b7D

It should be noted that [REDACTED] advised he was in March, 1919, [REDACTED] the MIHALY KAROLYI government in Hungary and in such capacity [REDACTED] of BELA KUN and a number of other Communist leaders of that regime. He stated that he was thus well acquainted with the various top level functionaries but could not recall specifically who were the Commissar or Deputy Commissars of Cultural and Educational Affairs, and definitely did not associate subject's name with these offices. According to the [REDACTED] issue of "Amerikai Magyar Nepszava", a Hungarian language newspaper published in New York City, [REDACTED]

Encls (5)
cc-Boston (Encls (2))
cc-Los Angeles (Encls 3)
cc-Washington Field (2) Encls)

MWC:LEW
65-6747

RECORDED - 8

JUN 8 1951

HANDLED BY
STEP DESK

Letter to Director
NY 65-6747

[REDACTED]

b7D

b2
b7C
b7D

For the additional information of the Bureau,
CI [REDACTED] advised this office on 6/6/51 that [REDACTED] re-
turned to NYC from Europe on [REDACTED]. In accordance with
instructions in Butel 5/12/51, the Bureau is requested to
advise this office if it desires that [REDACTED] be contacted
concerning the subject.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ORIGIN: LOS ANGELES

BS File No. 65-1838 RMT

MADE AT:
BOSTON, MASS.

DATE:
6-8-51

PERIOD:
5/15, 19/51

MADE BY:

b7c

TITLE:

THEODORE VON KARMAN

CHARACTER:

INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS:

AGENCY ICE b2
REQ. REC'D 6-26-51
REP'T FORW. 115/55
BY Wm. J. [redacted]
AGENCY ICE State
REQ. REC'D 6-26-51
REP'T FORW. 7-13-51
BY Alf [redacted]
Railroad [redacted]
DETAILS: Von Karmen

[redacted] stated on May 15, 1951, that the Subject is unknown to him and he is not aware of ever having heard reference to the Subject's name. [redacted] advised the reign of terror initiated by the regime succeeding the Hungarian Bela Kun Government in 1919, was equally anti-Semitic and anti-Communistic.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. INFORMATION. - RUC -

AGENCY photo [redacted]
REQ. REC'D 1-15-51
REP'T FORW. 1-24-51
BY Alf [redacted]

[redacted] interviewed on May 15, 1951, stated he did not know VON KARMAN by his true name or by the name of those aliases which are known to this office. He stated he was not aware of ever having heard information regarding the Subject.

Concerning activities within Hungary following the overthrow of the Bela Kun Government, [redacted] advised the succeeding Social Democrats found it politically expedient to institute a reign of terror which was equally directed against Semitics as well as Communists. This policy, according to [redacted] caused hundreds to flee because of the racial discrimination, and he cautioned that all those who fled Hungary at that time could not accordingly be classified as political refugees.

*1 cc OSI
via [redacted]
6-25-51
1 cc W. J. [redacted]
6/29/51 WAK:jmc*

b7D

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

APP. & FORW.

SAC

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

RECORDED - 126

INDEXED - 126

COPIES:

- 5 - Bureau (100-372586)
- 3 - Los Angeles (65-1936)
- 1 - Washington Field (100-22923)
- 1 - New York (Info.) (Info.)

JUN 11 1951
24

FIVE

65-1838

Reference

New York teletype to Bureau and Boston Office dated May 12, 1951.

SAC, LOS ANGELES

June 2, 1951

DIRECTOR, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Rebulet 5-22-51.

There is attached for your information a copy
of OSI report dated May 1, 1951, concerning subject.

Pertinent information which appears in the
attachment is to be set out in your next investigative
report.

100-372586 - 53

Attachment

WAK:mes

354-894

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-30-97 BY SP5 JCL/ML

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____

JUN 5 1951

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMM - FBI

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Form No. 1
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FILE No. 105-863

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 6/13/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/23; 5/29; 6/1/51	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7C
TITLE CHANGED: THEODORE VON KARMAN, WAS., Theodore De Karman, Todor Karman, Todor Szolloskislaki Karman, Theodor Karman, Theodor Von Karman, Theodor Karman Von Szolloskistak			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: AGENCY ICE REQ. REC'D 6/22/51 REP'T FORW. 6/25/51 BY [REDACTED] <i>1 cc via Liaison 6-25-51</i> <i>1 cc memo 6-25-51</i> Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN interviewed on 5/23/51 and 5/29/51 at which time he admitted having been formerly associated with the Communist BELA KUN government in Hungary from March to July, 1919 as an Advisor with the title of Group Leader in the People's Commissariat for Educational Affairs. Attempts to explain action as a required matter of expediency to help preserve educational system of Hungary, to preserve his own life and that of his family, and to preserve family property. Denies he was then or has ever been a member of the Communist Party or that he has furnished or been requested to furnish classified information to any unauthorized person. Details furnished and set out. Disclaims any personal knowledge of Communist Party membership or subversive activity. [REDACTED] Biographical sketch of BELA KUN set out. Former European associates affirm subject's association with BELA KUN government.			
DETAILS: <i>4cc - REC 6-22-51</i> <i>2cc - 6-29-51</i> AGENCY Photo 11/5/51 REQ. REC'D 6-15-51 REP'T FORW. 6-24-51 BY [REDACTED] The title of this report is being marked changed in order to reflect subject's correct name as currently used and variations ascertained from interview and available records.			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
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EX-143

SECTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. INTERVIEW WITH DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN	2
A. STATEMENT	—9
II. IDENTITY OF BELA KUN	13
III. INTERVIEWS WITH FORMER ASSOCIATES IN EUROPE	
[REDACTED]	14
[REDACTED]	15
[REDACTED]	15
IV. MISCELLANEOUS	16

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b7C

I. INTERVIEW WITH DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN

b7c Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board, Department of the Air Force, 1501 South Marengo Avenue, Pasadena, California, was interviewed by the writer on May 23 and May 29, 1951 at the Los Angeles Office in the presence of [REDACTED] U. S. Air Force, Maywood, California. He furnished substantially the following information after first being informed that he was not required to make any statement whatever and that he had a right to be represented by counsel.

He was born on May 11, 1881 at Budapest, Hungary and received his early education there. During 1902-03, he served the required one year of military duty in the Austrian-Hungarian Army and then attended Jozsef Nador Technical University in Budapest from 1903 to 1906. In 1906 he entered the University of Goettingen at Goettingen, Germany, from which he received a Ph.D in 1909. From 1909 to 1912 he was engaged as a lecturer at the University of Goettingen.

In 1912 he was appointed Professor and Director of the Aeronautical Laboratory at the University of Aachen at Aachen, Germany. In August, 1914, holding a Reserve commission in the Austrian-Hungarian Army, although a German citizen, he was called back into service where he was engaged as a Department Head in the Air Force Research and Development Division. He held the rank of First Lieutenant and developed, among other things, the first helicopter and the first sealed gas tank. He served in this capacity until the disintegration of the Army in late 1918.

About December, 1918, being still on leave of absence from the University of Aachen, and because of Armistice conditions it was impossible for him to return to occupied Aachen, he became a part time Advisor to his friend EUGENE GONCI who was then Assistant Secretary of Education under Count MICHAEL KAROLYI, President of the Independent Republic of Hungary. At the same time he gave a course of lectures on Aeronautics at the Jozsef Nador Technical University in Budapest. GONCI'S superior and Minister of Education was SIEGMUND KUNFI.

Upon the surrender of the government by Count KAROLYI to Communist BELA KUN in March, 1919, GONCI personally telephoned the subject and requested him to stay on in his position to which VON KARMAN replied that he "would try" and in fact, did remain.

Both SIEGMUND KUNFI and EUGENE GONCI, who were non-Communists, were temporarily carried over by the BELA KUN regime, but GONCI resigned

LA 105-863

later and after about two months, it was believed, KUNFI was replaced by GEORGE LUKACS, who was definitely a Communist, and whose title was People's Commissar for Educational Affairs. LUKACS' immediate assistant was EMERIC FOGARASI, who, of course, was also a Communist.

VON KARMAN continued his duties as Advisor under the BELA KUN regime to KUNFI, GONCI and their successors LUKACS and FOGARASI until the collapse of the BELA KUN government near the end of July, 1919. He had a title of Group Leader in the People's Commissariat for Educational Affairs and had an office in the Ministry Building in Budapest. He never had any other title.

Subject's duties as Advisor consisted of planning for University education and included the choosing of professors and the preparation of curricula of study in the Science and Engineering fields in cooperation with the universities. After about one month in the BELA KUN regime, his former part time duties gradually increased so that he was actually thereafter so engaged full time, although he was also able to do some lecturing.

While so engaged as Advisor, he believes that he received compensation from the BELA KUN Government for his services, although he did not pay attention to the financial aspect because the money issued by the Communists was practically worthless. In addition, for some time thereafter he continued receiving regular Army pay as an Army officer, and he also received compensation from his lecturing.

Upon the collapse of the BELA KUN regime, VON KARMAN remained in Budapest approximately one week and then, with the assistance of STEPHEN FAKLA, an old Army officer friend with whom he had served in the Imperial Air Force, he was able to leave Hungary. FAKLA was then still an active Air Force officer in 1919 although disapproving of the Communist government. Upon the overthrow of the BELA KUN regime, FAKLA arranged to get an army plane and transport the subject to the Austrian frontier. From there subject crossed the frontier with a regular passport and then proceeded to Aachen, Germany. His mother and sister remained in Budapest where they continued to reside until 1930.

Subject explained that he left Budapest in order to return to his work at the University of Aachen and also to avoid a lot of explaining that might naturally have been required. His prior fears and concern for the life of his mother and sister, left behind, and the preservation of family property did not still exist inasmuch as he felt that the Allies

LA 105-863

who would follow could well maintain a good government. He returned to Hungary in 1921 on a Hungarian passport, had no trouble whatever, and did not consider himself as a refugee.

VON KARMAN gave the following explanation and reasons for his connection with the BELA KUN Government:

1. He stated that friends at the University of Budapest prevailed upon him to stay with the Ministry of Education in order to preserve the Hungarian system of education. In this regard he pointed out that he was very well known there and that his father MAURICE KARMAN had previously been a Professor at the University of Budapest until his death in 1915. His father had also been an Advisor to the Minister of Education from 1909 to 1915 under the Royal regime of Count APPONYI.
2. He stated that he had a personal desire to prevent the Communist influence from destroying the country's educational system and believed that cooperation could best make this possible.
3. He stated that it was his personal belief that Communist control of the country was only a temporary and passing influence and that conditions would shortly be returned to normal.
4. He stated also that it was his personal desire to preserve his own life, that of his family, and to preserve the family property including his father's large library, and believed that remaining in the Ministry could best achieve these results.

Subject claimed also that he was not then nor has he ever been a member of the Communist Party. He stated that he had never been asked or required to be a member of the Communist Party by the BELA KUN Government. He recalls advising the BELA KUN authorities on several occasions that he was against their theories and was in an independent position. He was therefore called "Mr. Professor" and never "Comrade." In this regard VON KARMAN remarked that if one is under a Communist regime for four months as he was, a person is immunized against Communism for life.

As to BELA KUN himself, he had no personal dealings with him and in fact, had never seen him. He had never received any instructions to put Communist propaganda into the universities and his dealings were generally with the Civil Service people, very few of whom were Communists except at the very top.

VON KARMAN carefully differentiated and explained that he did not consider himself as having been a "part of," "connected" or "associated with" the BELA KUN Government, but considered himself rather as having been an outside "Advisor" who was "identified" with that regime.

VON KARMAN indicated that he believed that he had rendered a service to his native country. In this regard he pointed out that after the fall of the BELA KUN Government and his return to Germany, he had received a personal letter of commendation from ALEXANDER IMRI, the succeeding Minister of Education for Hungary, wherein he was commended for his efforts in protecting the educational institutions of Hungary during that period. This letter may still be among his personal effects and an effort will be made by him to locate it.

The subject did produce however a typewritten letter in German on the letterhead of Prof. Dr. L. PRANDTL, Goettingen, Den., dated June 28, 1920. It was addressed to "Professor Dr. v. KARMAN, Aerodynamisches Institut der Techn. Hochschule, Aachen," and read as follows, according to a translation previously prepared by the subject on his own letterhead. A photostatic copy of the above letter is being retained in the files of this office:

"Dear Colleague,

"Have my best thanks for your detailed letter of June 16; I was especially glad to have the statements concerning the Hungarian matter. I was very glad because I believe that the justification of your way of action will be much more perfectly established, than it seemed possible before. I myself know you too well to have any different opinion of you; however for such persons who are less acquainted with you, it is very useful that you have the opportunity to speak up yourself.

"I forwarded immediately your statement to the W.G.L. (Scientific Society for Aeronautics) and attached a copy of the letter of the Hungarian Minister of Education."

Concerning GEORGE LUKACS, People's Commissar for Educational Affairs under BELA KUN, and with whom subject dealt primarily, VON KARMAN stated that he would be approximately 60 years of age now. Upon the collapse of the BELA KUN regime he had returned to the Soviet Union where he was employed at the Soviet Academy. According to information contained in current Hungarian newspapers, he is now believed to be a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Budapest. He is also reported to be

LA 105-863

currently in disfavor with the present Communist Hungarian government for not being sufficiently Communistic.

As to the other Communist officials in the BELA KUN Government, VON KARMAN recalls a Dr. EUGENE VARGA who was believed to be Commissar of Economics. In 1945 while in Moscow to attend the 220th anniversary of the Academy of Science of the USSR, he met VARGA at the United States Embassy in Moscow at which time he was then a representative of the Soviet Union to a Reparations Conference.

Other officials that he recalls only from newspaper accounts of that day include ALEXANDER GARBAL, who was believed to be nominal president although BELA KUN of course was the actual head of the government. GARBAL was in fact a Trade Union Leader in the Imperial Regime and was merely brought in and used by the BELA KUN Government to rally the people. Also in the government were one _____ PUGANY and one _____ SZANTO, who were Commissars of War and Commerce, respectively. Nothing is known concerning them.

Regarding the position taken by other professors at the University of Budapest and Jozsef Nador Technical University (where he had been a visiting professor from 1908 to 1909, including the period of Communist control) subject stated that other professors, names not specifically recalled, also found it necessary and expedient to cooperate with the BELA KUN regime in order to preserve the educational system and their own physical property which was being seized and turned over to the peasants. He did recall Prof. RADO KOVESLIGHETY who was Director of the Seismology Department, who though not a real Communist, also found it necessary to cooperate. He was believed to be on the staff of the University of Budapest at that time.

As to STEPHEN FAKLA, mentioned above, subject advised that his present whereabouts is unknown. He last heard from him during 1930-35 when he was believed to be an Instructor in the Air Force. After his return to Germany, VON KARMAN invited FAKLA to the University of Aachen where he completed his studies and thereafter was his assistant for a time. If alive today, FAKLA would be about 50 to 55 years of age and would probably be somewhere in the Western Zone of Germany.

Upon returning to Aachen, Germany in 1919, VON KARMAN continued, he resumed his former professorship at the University of Aachen where he remained until 1926. In 1926 he made his first trip to the United States to the Guggenheim Foundation at Pasadena, California. From 1926 to 1930 he spent considerable time both in the United States and in Germany.

LA 105-863

In 1930 he immigrated to the United States to become Director of the Guggenheim Aeronautics Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California. He became a citizen in Los Angeles in 1936. In 1944, at the request of [REDACTED] U. S. Army Air Force [REDACTED] he became Advisor to the U. S. Air Force and also became affiliated with the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. He is currently engaged as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, Department of the Air Force, with an office in the Pentagon Building, Washington, D.C. He also is Professor Emeritus at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California. b7C

As to the above disclosure of his association with the BELA KUN Government, VON KARMAN stated that he has never made any attempt to conceal this matter and believed, in fact, that it was generally known. However, he indicated that he had never volunteered this information to government authorities in this country, except as hereinafter noted, nor had he ever been previously questioned regarding it by anyone anywhere except in Germany in 1920-21 when he was associated with "Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft fur Luftfahrt" (Scientific Society for Aeronautics). The President of this society was Prince HENRY, brother of the Imperial Kaiser WILHELM. At that time subject explained the circumstances as given above and also furnished them the previously mentioned letter of commendation sent him by ALEXANDER IMRI. This apparently satisfied all concerned and no other questions were ever raised. At that time Dr. ADOLPH BAUMKER, now at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, was in the Air Ministry in Berlin, Germany and worked with the subject. It is possible, subject stated, that he may know and recall the circumstances of this questioning and the results.

Subject stated that while in Europe recently he was advised of a current investigation of him there by Prof. NICHOLAS SCHEUBE of the University of Darmstadt in the American Zone of Germany. SCHEUBE had been offered a three month Information Trip to the United States by the American Military Government and SCHEUBE had visited him in Paris to inquire as to where he should visit in the United States. At this same time he informed the subject that he had been questioned by an American officer concerning subject's association with the BELA KUN Government in 1919. VON KARMAN explained that SCHEUBE had been a former student of his at the University of Aachen and was his assistant from 1923 to 1926. b7C

Upon his return to this country on May 8, 1951, VON KARMAN thereafter, on May 11, 1951, contacted [REDACTED] of the U. S. Air Force at the Pentagon Building, and informed him of the investigation and furnished him the circumstances of his prior association with the BELA KUN regime. This was the first disclosure to any U. S. Government authority.

LA 105-863

As to the latter mentioned trip abroad which extended from late March, 1951 to May 8, 1951, subject stated that it was a combined official business and pleasure trip.

He visited Algiers, North Africa where he attended a Scientific Conference. He then proceeded to the Sahara Desert where he inspected a French Guided Missile Project. Thereafter he went to Tunis, North Africa, and Rome, Italy for pleasure. Finally, he proceeded to Paris, France regarding the setting up of an Air Force Research and Development Organization for the combined North Atlantic Treaty Nations forming NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organizations).

Concerning the previously mentioned attendance in Moscow in 1945 on the 220th anniversary of the Academy of Science of the USSR, subject stated that he was one of approximately sixteen United States scientists who had been invited. At that time he was already in Europe on a military mission. At the conclusion of the conference he then proceeded to Budapest to visit his brother and has not been there since.

Subject stated further that he has never furnished classified information to any unauthorized person, American or foreign, and to his knowledge has never been approached by any unauthorized person requesting such information. In this latter regard, VON KARMAN claimed also that at the above mentioned meeting in Moscow in 1945, VON KARMAN was not only not approached for information, but to the contrary, Russian scientists were apparently prohibited from contacting him for fear of his attempting to get information from them.

Regarding [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] referred to previously in this investigation, VON KARMAN advised that he had no personal knowledge that they were Communist Party members or otherwise engaged in subversive activities. He added that he was, of course, now aware of such former activity [REDACTED]

67C Of the above mentioned individuals, he was most surprised to learn that [REDACTED] was a Communist Party member. Subject admitted having telephonically contacted [REDACTED] while the latter was [REDACTED]

As to [REDACTED] also previously referred to in this investigation, subject explained that he

LA 105-863

had been acquainted with [REDACTED] since about 1938 and has known [REDACTED] socially for the past three or four years. VON KARMAN identified [REDACTED] as [REDACTED]. Some time ago [REDACTED] first contacted VON KARMAN concerning [REDACTED].

Subject disapproved and the plan did not materialize.

Several months ago when [REDACTED] approached him with aspirations of [REDACTED] subject referred him to [REDACTED]. The latter, a retired businessman, is now believed by the subject to be financing [REDACTED] on a new invention, details of which are not known to him.

Subject explained that his name is now properly designated as THEODORE VON KARMAN. On occasions in the past he has used the name of THEODORE DE KARMAN, a French designation which is normally used by his sister. The correct Hungarian version had been TODOR KARMAN. His honorary Hungarian geographical designation of "SZOLLOSKISLAKI" indicating a land owner, was available to his family making his name TODOR SZOLLOSKISLAKI KARMAN, but such a designation is rarely used he added, except by the "snooty" and that "Von" is used as its substitute.

As indicated previously, subject's father MAURICE KARMAN was a former professor at the University of Budapest and died in 1915. His mother HELEN came to the United States in 1930, resided with him in Pasadena until her death in 1941. His sister, Dr. JOSEPHINE DE KARMAN came to the United States at the same time and is currently residing with him.

His brother NICHOLAUS KARMAN, married, about 67, now resides in Budapest. He formerly was a vice-president of a bank in Budapest until it was nationalized about two years ago and is retired on a small pension. A brother FERENCZ KARMAN, a former high school teacher in Budapest, died there in 1940 when about 52 years of age. His brother ELEMER KARMAN, a lawyer, died in Budapest in 1925 when about 24 years of age.

A. STATEMENT

The following statement, incorporating substantially the above pertinent information concerning subject's association with the Communist BELA KUN Government, was carefully read and corrected in detail by VON KARMAN on May 29, 1951. At the conclusion though he advised that he

LA 105-863

preferred not to sign it at this time inasmuch as he did not know the legal implications thereof nor did he know the uses to which the statement might be put. However, he admitted it was correct "in general". The statement, in its final revised form, with insertions made by the subject in his own handwriting being here underlined, is as follows:

"Los Angeles, California
May 29, 1951

b7C "I, THEODORE VON KARMAN, make the following voluntary statement to SA [REDACTED] who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been advised that I need not make any statement and that I have the right to be represented by counsel.

"I was born in Budapest, Hungary, on May 11, 1881, and reside at 1501 South Marengo Avenue, Pasadena, California.

"Concerning my identification with the Communist BELA KUN government in Hungary in 1919, I desire to state as background that in 1912 I had been appointed Professor of Aeronautics at the University of Aachen at Aachen, Germany. In 1914, holding a reserve commission, I was called back into the Austro-Hungarian Army and was engaged in Air Force research and development until the disintegration of the Army in late 1918.

"About December, 1918, being still on leave of absence from the University of Aachen, (because of armistice conditions it was impossible for me to return to occupied Aachen) I became a part time advisor to EUGENE GONCI, Assistant Secretary of Education under Count MICHAEL KAROLYI, who was then President of the Independent Republic of Hungary. The Minister of Education was then SIEGMUND KUNFI. During this time I also gave a course of lectures on Aeronautics at the JOZSEF NADOR TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY at Budapest.

"Upon the surrender of the Independent Government by KAROLYI to Communist BELA KUN in March, 1919, EUGENE GONCI telephoned me to stay on in my position, to which I replied that 'I would try,' and I did remain.

"Both SIEGMUND KUNFI and EUGENE GONCI, who were non-Communists, were temporarily carried over by the BELA KUN regime,

but GONCI resigned later after about two months and I believe KUNFI was replaced by GEORGE LUKACS, who was definitely a Communist and whose title was People's Commissar for Educational Affairs.

"I continued my duties as Advisor under the BELA KUN regime to both KUNFI, GONCI, and their successor LUKACS until the collapse of the BELA KUN Government near the end of July, 1919. I had a title of Group Leader in the People's Commissariat for Educational Affairs, and had an office in the Ministry Building in Budapest.

"My general duties consisted of planning for University Education and included the choosing of professors and the preparation of curricula of study in the science and engineering fields in cooperation with the universities. After about one month in the BELA KUN regime, my former part-time duties gradually increased so that I was actually thereafter so engaged full time although I was also able to do some lecturing.

"While so engaged as advisor, I believe that I received compensation from the BELA KUN Government. I did not pay attention to the financial aspect, because the money issued by the communists was practically worthless. For some time I continued receiving compensation as an Army officer and also from my lecturing.

"Upon the collapse of the BELA KUN regime, I remained in Budapest about a week and then, through former fellow-officers in the Air Force, I was transported near the Austrian frontier, passed the frontier with regular passport and then went to Aachen. My reason in leaving was not because of fear for my life or liberty but to return to my work in Aachen and also to avoid a lot of explaining that might have been required.

"My reasons for working with the BELA KUN Government as indicated above are as follows:

"(1) The influence of friends at the University of Budapest who prevailed upon me to stay with the Ministry in order to preserve the Hungarian system of education.

"(2) My own personal desire to prevent the Communist influence from destroying the country's educational system.

"(3) My personal belief that Communist control of the Country was only a temporary condition.

"(4) My personal desire to preserve my own life, that of my family, and the preservation of family property, including my father's large library.

"I desire to state that I was not then nor have I ever been a member of the Communist Party. I was never asked or required to be a member of the Communist Party by the BELA KUN Government. I recall advising the BELA KUN authorities on several occasions that I was against their theories and was in an independent position. I was therefore called 'Mr. Professor' and never 'Comrade.' In this regard, I wish to add that if one is under a Communist regime for four months as I was, you are immunized against Communism for life.

"I wish to state also that I do not consider myself as having been associated with the BELA KUN regime, but consider myself rather as having been an outside advisor who was identified with that regime. I had no personal dealings with BELA KUN, and, in fact, never saw him. I never received any instruction to put Communist propaganda into the universities and my dealings were with regular civil service people, very few of whom were Communists except at the very top.

"I also desire to add that I have never furnished classified information to any unauthorized person, American or foreign, nor to my knowledge have I ever been approached by any unauthorized person requesting such information.

"I have read this statement consisting of four typewritten pages. After having had an opportunity to make any corrections, additions, or deletions, I have initialed each page and voluntarily signed below.

"Witnesses:

"On May 29, 1951, Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN read and corrected the

LA 105-863

above statement, indicated that it was correct generally, although he preferred not to sign it at this time.

b7c "/s/ [REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI, Los Angeles
"/s/ [REDACTED] USAF."

II. IDENTITY OF BELA KUN

The following information was obtained from literature on file at the Los Angeles Public Library.

The 1948 edition of Webster's Biographical Dictionary published by G. C. Merriam Company, Springfield, Massachusetts, contains the following biographical sketch of BELA KUN: "KUN, BELA. 1885- . Hungarian-Jewish Communist; born in Transylvania. Journalist in Cluj; fought in Austrian Army in World War; captured by Russians (1915); became Bolshevik; sent to Hungary (1918) by Communist leaders, headed Red News (1918-19); organized Communist revolution in Budapest (1919); succeeded KAROLYI as Premier (March 22 to July 31, 1919); introduced radical changes in government; failed to control Slovakian peasants. In counter revolution was defeated with aid of Rumanians (1919); fled to Vienna and later (1920) to Russia; re-appeared in Vienna (April 1928), briefly imprisoned, and deported to Russia."

The Statesman's Year Book of 1920 published by MacMillan Company, New York, contains the following information regarding the historical aspect of the above pertinent period in the Hungarian Government: "On October 31, 1918, a revolution broke out in Hungary with the object of establishing a Republic and making the country independent of Austria. On November 13, 1918, King CHARLES issued a letter of abdication and on November 16, 1918 Hungary was proclaimed an independent Republic (Hungarian People's Republic) of which Count MICHAEL KAROLYI became Provisional President."

"The KAROLYI regime continued until March 22, 1919 when the Count resigned in consequence of an Entente note in reference to the boundary between Hungary and Rumania. Count KAROLYI'S Cabinet was succeeded by a Soviet government which proclaimed a dictatorship of the proletariat and called upon the whole Hungarian people to aid in the establishment of socialism and the freedom of the country. An opposition government, however soon was set up at Arad and Szeged which, with the assistance of the Rumanian Army, swept away the Soviet government, and on August 7, 1919, a National Government was again in the capital. Elections were held in January and February of 1920 and as a result a bloc composed of parties of the Right were returned to power with Admiral NICHOLAS VON HORTHY as Regent."

The New International Year Book of 1919 published by Dodd, Mead and Company, New York, indicated that on March 22, 1919 the KAROLYI Ministry resigned and was succeeded by a Bolshevist Ministry composed as follows: President - ALEXANDER GARBAI; People's Commissar for Home Affairs - EUGENE LANDLAR; People's Commissar for Finance - BELA SZEKELY; People's Commissar for Education - SIEGMUND KUNFI; People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs - BELA KUN; People's Commissar for Agriculture - EUGEN HAMBURGER. Of the above named individuals, subject stated that he had no knowledge whatever concerning LANDLAR, SZEKELY, or HAMBURGER.

The New York Times of August 3, 1919 reflected that BELA KUN resigned on July 31, 1919 and was granted safe conduct out of the country by the Allies. The New York Times of August 19, 1919 indicated that he was allowed to leave Germany in order to proceed to Petrograd, USSR, where he arrived on August 14, 1919. A reception was then held in his honor in Petrograd by Soviet officials on August 19, 1919.

III. INTERVIEWS WITH FORMER ASSOCIATES IN EUROPE

A. [REDACTED]

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b7D [REDACTED] another government agency conducting security investigations, advised on April 26, 1951 that a representative of that agency had on April 12 and 13, 1951 interviewed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Georg August University at Goettingen, Germany, now vacationing at Badenweilles, Schwarzwald, French Zone, Germany. [REDACTED] furnished substantially the following information:

He first became acquainted with the subject in 1906 and has corresponded with him frequently until 1945. Upon receiving his doctorate degree, subject became a member of the faculty of the Georg August University where he remained until about 1913. Subject then accepted the Directorship of the Department of Mathematics and Aerotechnics at the University of Aachen.

He was then drafted into the Austrian Army and served as an officer until the war ended, during which time he was in charge of a project to develop some type of observation aircraft which would be least vulnerable to ground fire. As a result he successfully developed a helicopter before the war ended.

b7D [REDACTED] continued that subject accepted the position as Minister of Culture in the Communist coup under BELA KUN. He believed, however,

LA 105-863

b7D that subject accepted this position not for political reasons, but to aid in supervising the educational system in Hungary. Subject had related to him that Communist officials in the BELA KUN Government tried to direct him to make changes in the educational system but that subject would tell them he "would take care of any changes were there any to be made." Subject was very independent and would not allow anyone to influence him in the field of education and told [REDACTED] that they, the Communists, did not understand anything about education.

Later, when subject returned to Germany and to the University of Aachen, it was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Education in Germany that the subject had been a member of the BELA KUN Government and that subject was a Communist. Subject denied ever being a convinced Communist and produced a letter of praise from the succeeding Minister of Culture in Germany. This letter stated that the subject had made no changes in the educational system and praised the subject for adherence to accepted principles of education. This letter satisfied all concerned that the subject was not a radical Communist and no reference was made again to the subject's activities with BELA KUN.

B. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also advised on April 16, 1951 that [REDACTED] presently employed as [REDACTED] Aachen, Germany, was reinterviewed on April 10, 1951 by a representative of [REDACTED] above, at which time he reiterated his previous information to the effect that subject's mother and one VON FAKLA had informed him that the subject was Minister of Culture under BELA KUN in Hungary in 1919 and that reportedly VON FAKLA had helped him escape from Hungary after the fall of the BELA KUN Government. [REDACTED] added that on April 1, 1951, he had written the subject a note congratulating him on his 70th birthday.

C. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised on April 16, 1951 that [REDACTED] University of Aachen, Aachen, Germany, had also been interviewed on April 10, 1951 at which time he advised that he had been acquainted with the subject from 1919 until 1933 and that the subject had been Minister of Culture under BELA KUN in 1919. He had become a Minister in the government in order to save his rich family from financial ruin.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

[redacted] above, also advised that the records of the Georg August University, Goettingen, Germany, reflect that the subject registered there on November 9, 1906, received his doctorate in Philosophy on February 23, 1909, and had been associated as assistant professor to Dr. Prof. PRANDTL from 1909 to 1913.

b2 [redacted] advised that the records of the University of Aachen, Aachen, Germany, reflect that the subject was employed as a member of the faculty on April 1, 1913 and was carried as a member until April 1, 1934. On April 15, 1930 he was given a leave of absence to Pasadena, California. On November 20, 1930 this leave was extended to five years on the condition that he return to AACHEN and teach one semester each year. On April 1, 1934 subject, on his own request, was released as a member of the faculty.

[redacted] reported also that the files of the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, Vienna, Austria, reflect that the subject served as a First Lieutenant in the Austrian-Hungarian Army under the name of Dr. THEODOR KARMAN VON SZOLLOSKISTAK during World War I (1914-18) with Aircraft Defense and Air Force Replacement Troops.

[redacted] of known reliability, advised that the subject had recently been in contact with [redacted] Columbia University, New York City, and also [redacted] Houston, Texas.

The records of the New Haven Office covering Danbury, Connecticut, contain no information pertaining to [redacted]. The records of the Houston Office contain no derogatory information concerning [redacted].

b2 [redacted] stated that the subject has recently been in correspondence with the following individuals:

- b7c
1. [redacted] Washington, D.C.
 2. [redacted] MIT, Gas Turbine Laboratory, Cambridge, Massachusetts
 3. B. KLEINMAN, 222 East 202nd Street, New York 58.
 4. [redacted] Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

L It is observed that [redacted] above, has previously been identified in this investigation.

LA 105-863

b2 [REDACTED] has also advised that the subject has been in correspondence with the following who reside abroad:

- b7c
1. [REDACTED] Zurich, Switzerland
 2. Dienst Ministerie, Van der Keen en Waterstaat, Amsterdam, Holland
 3. [REDACTED] Torino, Italy
 4. [REDACTED] Goteborg, Sweden
 5. [REDACTED] Paris 16, France
 6. F. N. SCHEUBE, 156 Dieburger Str., Darmstadt, Deutschland.

It is believed that the last named individual above is identical with the NICHOLAS SCHEUBE who was identified by the subject at the time of his interview as being his former student and assistant at the University of Aachen, who recently informed him in Paris of a current investigation regarding him.

ENCLOSURE: OSI, District 18, Maywood

Photostatic copy of a letter in German dated June 28, 1920 from Prof. Dr. L. PRANDTL and translation of same, made available by subject.

P E N D I N G

LA 105-863

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

OSI reports by Special Agent [REDACTED] dated April 16, 1951 and April 26, 1951, OSI file No. 33-49. b7C

Mail cover on subject's residence at 1501 South Marengo Avenue, Pasadena, California, as reflected in the report of SA [REDACTED] dated April 27, 1951 at Los Angeles.

b7C

Serial 25

LA 105-863

LEADS

TO ALL OFFICES:

The Bureau has instructed that this investigation is to be given preferred handling and the results submitted promptly to the Bureau for transmission to OSI. Further, the fact that the subject is under intensive investigation should not be revealed to persons interviewed.

BOSTON OFFICE:

b7C At Cambridge, Massachusetts: Will review office records for any pertinent information regarding the identity and activities of [REDACTED] MIT, Gas Turbine Laboratory, who recently was in correspondence with the subject.

b7D Will report the results of the Bureau authorized interview with [REDACTED] previously set out in the New York report of SA [REDACTED] dated May 21, 1951. *done! sent to OSI*

b7C CINCINNATI OFFICE:

At Dayton, Ohio: Will interview [REDACTED] concerning subject's association with the BELA KUN regime in 1919 [REDACTED] b7D

For the information of the Cincinnati Office, this investigation is based on information originally furnished by G-2 on September 12, 1950 to the effect that a CIC report dated April 1, 1948 reflected that one TODAR KARMAN had joined the Hungarian Communist Party in 1918 while an Assistant Professor of Physics at the Jozsef Nador Technical University at Budapest, Hungary. When the Communists seized power under BELA KUN in 1919, KARMAN was appointed Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs in charge of Higher Education (high schools and universities). He reportedly remained in this capacity until the BELA KUN Government was overthrown in late 1919, after which he fled to Germany where he settled in Aachen. He subsequently came to this country, became associated with the California Institute of Technology and during the war reportedly engaged in research work in aerodynamics for the U. S. Army Air Force.

LA 105-863

NEW YORK OFFICE:

At New York City, New York: Will review office records for any pertinent information regarding the identity and activities of B. KLEINMAN, 222 East 202nd Street.

b7D Will report the results of the Bureau authorized interview with [REDACTED] previously set out in New York report of SA [REDACTED] dated May 21, 1951. b7C report let new

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE:

b7C At Washington, D.C.: Will review office records for any pertinent information regarding the identity and activities of [REDACTED] who recently corresponded with the subject.

b7C Will report the results of the interview with [REDACTED] in accordance with Bureau authorization granted in Bureau letter dated May 11, 1951.

b7D L Will also report the results of the interview with [REDACTED] in accordance with Bureau authorization granted by Bureau teletype dated May 12, 1951.

LOS ANGELES OFFICE:

At Los Angeles, California: Will continue to report additional information and activities concerning the subject as furnished by confidential informants.

REFERENCE: Los Angeles teletype to the Bureau and Washington Field dated May 23, 1951
Bureau teletype to Los Angeles dated May 11, 1951
b7C Report of SA [REDACTED] dated April 27, 1951 at Los Angeles.

Assistant Attorney General
James M. McInerney

Director, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.,
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

June 26, 1951

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

47584

Reference is made to our memorandum dated May 11, 1951, concerning captioned individual.

There is attached for your additional information a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated June 19, 1951, at Los Angeles, California.

Attachment

b7c

WAK:mes
100-372586

354844
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-97 BY [signature]

RECEIVED
FBI
JUN 26 3 51 PM '51
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED - 22
JUN 29 1951

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F.B.I.

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECORDS SECTION

COMM - FBI

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : *Am* SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bufile 100-372586)

DATE: May 7, 1951

47583

5-1
1-1

Rerep SA [REDACTED] dated 5/3/51, Washington, D. C.

b2
b7C
b7D

It is noted that the next to last line of the Synopsis should reflect that [REDACTED] denies furnishing information re subject to Informant [REDACTED] in Europe," instead of [REDACTED] as it appears. WFO copies of this report are being changed accordingly and it is requested that offices receiving copies of this letter note such change on copies in their files.

It is further requested that mail in this case directed to WFO bear the WFO file number, 100-22923.

RLS/w1
100-22923

cc: Los Angeles
Baltimore
Boston
New York

157-179
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-92 BY [REDACTED]

RECORDED - 66

EX-176

5-11
Change made
on disseminated
copies & those
retained with
[REDACTED]

25

work. [REDACTED]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI.

DATE: June 28, 1951

FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bufile 100-372586)

Reference is made to the report of SA [REDACTED] dated at Los Angeles, 6-13-51, in which a lead was set out to interview one [REDACTED]

It has been determined that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is presently on extended leave and will not return [REDACTED] until on or about August 1, 1951.

[REDACTED] supervisor at that [REDACTED] has advised that [REDACTED] has gone to someplace in Colorado to visit friends or relatives, and that upon the arrival at his destination, he will furnish his address to [REDACTED]

Unless otherwise advised [REDACTED] will be interviewed upon his return [REDACTED]

cc: Los Angeles (105-863)

PDS:MAH
65-1145

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-97 BY 525 JF/m

RECORDED - 88

INDEXED - 88

EX. - 97

JUN 1951

56

76 JUL 5 1951

b7C



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy
2 Avenue Gabriel
Paris 8, France

~~SECRET~~

SECRET - AIR COURIER

Date: June 25, 1951
To: Director, FBI
From: L Legal Attache, Paris
Subject: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

ReBulet May 22, 1951, requesting this office to interview [REDACTED] for any information in his possession concerning the above captioned who was reportedly an official connected with the Communist regime of BELA KUN in Hungary in 1919.

Accordingly, [REDACTED] was interviewed on June 14, 1951. A photograph of the subject was exhibited to him and [REDACTED] was unable to identify it.

Neither did [REDACTED] know anyone by the name of THEODORE VON KARMAN, nor was he able to say that any individual by that name was connected with the BELA KUN regime. [REDACTED] stated that he doubted very much whether one THEODORE VON KARMAN was an important official during the BELA KUN regime in 1919 for the reason that he, [REDACTED] himself was a young officer in the Hungarian Army in the BELA KUN regime and he did not recall anyone by the name of VON KARMAN. If the subject had been an important personality in Hungary during that period, it is [REDACTED] contention that he would certainly remember him.

Reliable and established sources in the [REDACTED] have been requested to furnish this office with any data concerning the subject they may have, and the Bureau will be advised if any such information is forthcoming.

ROL:AM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

RECORDED - 57
INDEXED - 57

JUN 30 1951

1 cc. Los Angeles
via R/S
7-5-51
wak

FILED BY
STONER

34 894 1/2 33
SP5 JCK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 12 1951

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Alden.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Gurnea.....
Mr. Mohr.....
Tele. Room.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

##

WASH 18 AND WFO FROM LOS ANGELES 12 4-21 PM
DIRECTOR, SAC DEFERRED

THEODORE VON KARMAN, WAS, IS DASH R. BUFILE ONE HUNDRED DASH THREE SEVEN TWO FIVE EIGHT SIX. SUBJ NOW REPORTED TO BE IN THE EAST TO ATTEND A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD AT WASHINGTON, AND ALSO TO DELIVER A COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT AN UNNAMED NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY. ABOVE FOR INFORMATION ONLY. REPORT COVERING INTERVIEW WITH SUBJ BEING SUBMITTED.

HOOD

HOLD PLS

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-93 BY SP5 JEP

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EX - 120
JUN 13 1951

76 JUL 9 1951

HANDLED BY
STON DARR

L.A.
J. H.
6-22-51
5/2/51
Gurnea

DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 22 1951

TELETYPE

394-994
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-92 BY SP8/clg

WASH 69 FROM LOS ANGELES

22 8-43 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI

DEFERRED

THEODORE VON KARMAN, WAS., IS DASH R. REURTEL JUNE TWENTYTWO, FIFTYON
REPORT SUBMITTED JUNE THIRTEEN LAST.

HOOD

HOLD

RECORDED - 42

223
56 JUL 12 1951

HANDLED BY
STOP DESK

100-372586-1
JUN 28 1951

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

JUNE 22, 1951

SAC, LOS ANGELES

THEODORE VON KARMAN, WAS, INTERNAL SECURITY DASH H. REURTEL 6/21/51
LAST. SUBMIT REPORT IMMEDIATELY. HOOVER

WAK:chmd

47584

Note: Subject was interviewed May 23, 1951, and an OSI Colonel was present. OSI desires report on interview so they may make determination concerning subject's continued employment with Air Force.

394-844
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/6/97 BY SP5 JCP/ML

EX - 37
RECORDED - 36

HANDLED BY
STOR DEBK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 22 1951

TELETYPE

02 JUL 9 1951

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FBI

RECD READING ROOM

4 37 PM '51

100-372586

JUN 23 1951

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JUN 23 1951

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JUN 23 1951

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100-372586

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 22 1951

TELETYPE

LOS ANGELES 12 FROM WASH DC 22 627 PM
SAC D E F E R R E D

THEODORE VON KARMAN, WAS, INTERNAL SECURITY DASH R. REURTEL JUNE
TWELVE LAST. SUBMIT REPORT IMMEDIATELY.

HOOVER

HOLD PLS

354894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-97 BY 60537/49

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: July 5, 1951

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bufile 100-372586)

Reference is made to the report of [REDACTED] dated June 13, 1951
in the above captioned matter. b7c

It is recalled that upon subject's recent interview he carefully corrected and amended a prepared statement of his association with the Communist Bela Kun Government in Hungary in 1919. He admitted that the facts contained therein were true but he declined to sign it "at this time". He indicated that he desired "to think the matter over", and agreed to advise this office later of his final decision. It was pointed out that this was purely a voluntary matter on his part and that it was entirely his privilege to sign or to decline to sign this statement. However, a definite expression of his ultimate choice, whatever it might be, would be appreciated in the immediate future. To date the subject has not contacted this office.

A contemplated recontact with the subject as to his possible oversight in this matter is currently being delayed in view of the sudden death of his sister, JOSEPHINE DE KARMAN, on July 2, 1951 as a result of a heart attack. It is felt that the subject should not be contacted at this time because of these personal circumstances.

JPA:ATO
105-863

cc - Washington Field

RECORDED - 5

INDEXED - 5

EX - 32
HANDLED BY
JUL 7 1951

F133
61 JUL 16 1951

354894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-97 BY JES/IC/AM

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

BS FILE NO. **65-1838 ROR**

REPORT MADE AT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	DATE WHEN MADE 7/18/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/12/51	REPORT MADE BY b7C
TITLE THEODORE VON KARMAN, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <i>not part of main file - check</i> Subject in contact with M.I.T., Cambridge, Mass. -RUC- DETAILS: <u>AT CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS:</u> Confidential Informant of known reliability, reported Massachusetts Institute of Technology Gas Turbine Laboratory, Cambridge, Massachusetts, had recently communicated with the Subject. M.I.T., informed SA that <i>7</i> b2 b7C b7D			
COPIES DESTROYED 28 APR 5 1963 <i>154 874</i> ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE <u>6-16-92</u> BY <u>SP5 JCF/gh</u>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. G. Thornton</i> J. G. Thornton		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - BUREAU (100-372386) 3 - LOS ANGELES (105-663) 2 - BOSTON AUG 1 COPY IN FILE		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 372386-62 JUL 20 1951 RECORDED - 56 INDEXED - 50 b7C	

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET5

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

☒ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

_____ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of _____

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-372586-62 pg 2-6

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X No Duplication Fee X
X for this page X
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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Referenced report requests the Boston Office report results of the interview with [REDACTED]. It is noted this information was previously reported in the Report of SA [REDACTED] dated at Boston 6/8/51.

It is noted [REDACTED] was investigated under the Atomic Energy Program in 1948. The Bureau is being advised of this fact by separate letter. The interview with [REDACTED] was taken from the Report of SA [REDACTED] dated at Boston, Massachusetts May 10, 1948, entitled [REDACTED]. Information credited to [REDACTED] own statement was taken from his Personnel Security Questionnaire filed with the Atomic Energy Commission.

INFORMANTS

b2 [REDACTED] - A mail cover on Subject's residence at 1501 South Marengo Avenue, Pasadena, California, as set forth in referenced report.

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [REDACTED] dated at Los Angeles 6/13/51, entitled "CHANGED: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was., INTERNAL SECURITY - R". b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LOS ANGELES

354 894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-23-81 BY SP-6/bjs

NY FILE NO. 65-6747 HCH

REPORT MADE AT

NEW YORK

DATE WHEN MADE

7/24/51

6/4; 7/2, 10/51

TITLE

THEODORE VON KARMAN, was

AGENCY *State 115/51* CHARACTER OF CASE

REQ. REC'D 1-15-51

REP'T FORW. 1-24-51

BY *Wm*

INTERNAL SECURITY - R

b2 b7D

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Confidential Informants advise they are not acquainted with subject. B. KLEINMAN apparently identical to ISABELLE KLEINMANN, aka BELLE KLEINMANN. No derogatory information available.

AGENCY *State 115/51*

REQ. REC'D 7-13-51

REP'T BY *ALF gms*

BY *Ribon*

Von Karm

AGENCY *115/51*

REQ. REC'D 1-15-51

REP'T FORW. 1-15-51

BY *Law 115/51*

- RUC -

DETAILS: Confidential Informant [redacted] of known reliability, who is acquainted with the activities of the German Communist Party in Europe during the 1920's, advised he is not acquainted with subject and doubted that subject held a prominent position or was otherwise active in the organization during the above period.

Confidential Informant [redacted] of known reliability, who was personally acquainted with top functionaries of the BELAYKUN regime in Hungary stated he does not know THEODORE VON KARMAN under his true name or known aliases, nor could he identify a photograph of subject. He stated he has a faint recollection of a Professor KARMAN in Budapest, who was an old man thirty years ago and if this individual was in any way connected with subject he must have been subject's father. However, he could give no further information concerning this Professor KARMAN, nor did he know if he had a son or other relative who could have been identical with subject.

This informant said that he had occasion to be well

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

Edward Scheidt
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- 6-Bureau (100-372586)
- 5-Los Angeles (105-863) (2-OSI, District 18, Maywood)
- 1-Washington Field (Info) (100-22923)

JUL 27 1951

RECORDED - 59

INDEXED - 59

3-New York
RTV of FBI - This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not distributed outside of agency to which loaned.

NY 65-6747

acquainted with BELA KUN and his various top level functionaries and, while he does not now recall who held the position of Commissar or Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs, he definitely does not associate subject's name with those offices.

The Los Angeles Office has advised that one B. KLEINMAN, 222 East 202nd Street, New York 58, New York, has recently been in correspondence with subject at his home, 1501 South Marengo Avenue, Pasadena, California. Discreet inquiry at the above address revealed it to be the residence of MORTIMER V. ~~KLEINMANN~~ and his wife ISABELLE ~~KLEINMANN~~, also known as BELLE ~~KLEINMANN~~. They are an elderly couple who have resided at this address for several years and bear a good reputation. No identifiable information concerning MORTIMER V. KLEINMANN or ISABELLE KLEINMANN is available in the files of the New York Office.

... REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

ADMINISTRATIVE

INFORMANTS

b7c

b2

b7c

b7D

L

was contacted by former SA
on 7/2/51.

Contacted by

6/4/51.

SAT

REFERENCES

b7C

54

Bureau letter to Los Angeles. 5/11/51. - 40
Report of SA [REDACTED] 5/21/51, New York. &
New York letter. 6/7/51. - 81
Report of SA [REDACTED] 6/13/51, Los Angeles.
Bureau letter, 6/26/51. 51

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. BELMONT

FROM : C. E. KENNEDY

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

DATE: May 11, 1951

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room

PURPOSE:

INDEXED - 40

CLASSIFIED BY 85 JCP/PPW
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
(334-110) 10-19-98

To advise you of the status of the above investigation and to recommend that

be interviewed concerning subject.

It is also recommended that no interviews be authorized at this time with even though they may be in a position to furnish information concerning subject.

BACKGROUND:Personal History

Subject is a world-renowned aerodynamicist, born 1881, Hungary; entered the United States in 1930; naturalized - 1936; employed as Director, Guggenheim Aeronautical Research Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, 1930 to 1942; also employed as full-time Consultant for Air Force, 1942 to date. Subject's present official position is Chairman of Air Force Scientific Advisory Board and maintains offices in the Pentagon. Subject has continual access to highly sensitive air research information. He presently resides at Pasadena, California.

Basis for Investigation

Investigation of subject was begun March 14, 1951, on the basis of a G-2 report which alleged that subject was Commissar of Culture under the short-lived Bela Kun Communist Government of Hungary in 1919. A further basis was information in Bufiles which reflects subject has associated closely in air research with known Communist Party members and with William Ferl, a known

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

MAJ:mes
100-372586

F228

62 AUG 7 1951

RECEIVED
HANDLED BY
STOP INDEXED - 40

JUL 25 1951

SECRET

WAK

CHS

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